

Nathan Deal
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

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Media Contact: Reg Griffin
404-656-0239
reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov



Most Harris County Child Care Programs Participating in Quality Rated

Free online tool helps Georgia families make the most informed child care choice

ATLANTA (August 1, 2016) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) announced today that Harris County is among the top counties in the state in its Quality Rated program where more than 70-percent of all eligible child care programs are rated. Quality Rated child care programs in Harris County are Kim Ragsdale, Veronica Dawson, Bethesda Baptist Church Child Care Center, Rising Stars Child Development Center, and Shepherd’s Care Day School.

These programs are among more than 1,000 child care providers in Georgia that have been rated and are committed to going above and beyond state health and safety requirements to provide a high-quality experience to children and their families. Quality Rated is a program of DECAL.

“This outstanding level of participation shows that child care providers in Harris County are serious about providing high quality care and education to children and families in their communities,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy. M. Jacobs. “Harris County’s child care providers can be proud of this accomplishment that ultimately benefits Georgia’s youngest citizens.”

“I appreciate the hard work and dedication of these child care providers to strive for the highest standards of care for our community,” said US Representative Lynn Westmoreland. “Early childhood care and education have a profound impact on a child's development, and having access to such outstanding providers will help parents prepare their children for a bright future.”

“Parents and families can use Quality Rated to cross-check child care referrals they receive from families and friends or through other research they’ve done,” added Commissioner Jacobs. “They can make sure that the program they are considering is evaluated by the State of Georgia and committed to providing children an environment and experience that is best for their development.”

All Quality Rated programs can be found on www.QualityRated.org in an easy-to-use, free, online database designed for Georgia parents. All child care providers that participate in Quality Rated – whether they have one, two or three stars – have gone above and beyond state health and safety requirements.

About DECAL

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.