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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECAL and Yaarab Shrine Circus promote Early Reading

“Red Fez Reading Club” offers Free Circus Tickets to Young Readers

ATLANTA, Ga., (March 3, 2014) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is partnering with the 2014 Yaarab Shrine Circus and Fair, May 16-26, 2014, at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta, to promote early reading.

The Shriners are offering free circus tickets to children who join the “Red Fez Reading Club,” created to encourage increased reading by young children and their families, friends and neighbors. Children who join the club will earn one circus ticket for each book read by or to them outside the classroom, with a maximum of five tickets per child.

“For 70 years, Atlanta-area Shriners have sponsored the circus to raise money for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a health care system of 22 hospitals providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “The Shriners have expanded these efforts to encourage Georgia’s youngest learners and their families to read more books. We are excited to be a part of the biggest Shrine Circus in North America and look forward to being under the Big Top.”

More information and downloadable resources from the “Red Fez Reading Club” are available at www.redfezreaders.com. All children registered by May 25, 2014, will be eligible to win one of ten circus-themed children’s books.

About Bright from the Start

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.dec.al.ga.gov.