



Child Care Resource and Referral of Georgia



Winter 2012

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Nathan Deal
Governor

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Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

Valuable Resource Will Soon be Available to Georgia Families Seeking Child Care

ATLANTA, Ga., (October 27, 2011) – Georgia families looking for child care will have a new resource to help them find a child care center or family child care provider that offers quality care. Starting January 2012 Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the state agency responsible for overseeing and supporting early care and education, will launch a voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) called **Quality Rated** to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Child care centers and family child care providers will have an opportunity to volunteer to participate in a system that will rate the quality of care they provide.

According to Bobby Cagle, Commissioner of Bright from the Start, implementing a QRIS in Georgia has been a priority for Governor Nathan Deal since the day he took office. “The first time I met with Governor Deal, he clearly communicated that he wanted a quality rating and improvement system for Georgia’s child care industry that would help families and child care professionals. I am pleased that Quality Rated will be an easily accessible system that will serve thousands of families and providers statewide.”

In addition, the voluntary Quality Rated will help improve the quality of early care and education services offered to children. It will assist families in understanding what higher quality child care looks like and will identify child care programs that provide higher quality.

Child care programs that choose to participate in Quality Rated will be eligible for free professional development, technical assistance, and financial incentive packages to support quality improvements. Starting in 2013, families will be able to verify on the Bright from the Start website if a child care provider is participating in Quality Rated and to see the quality rating they have achieved.

Bright from the Start 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 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.

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National Accreditation Spotlight

Congratulations to ABC Child Development Center in Alma, GA for obtaining National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) status! The staff at ABC have all worked hard to receive this national honor. ABC holds the distinction of being the only child care facility in Bacon County to achieve national accreditation status. Congratulations to ABC for reaching this impressive milestone.



Mrs. Betty "Ann" Bird, a family child care provider in Bloomingdale, began working with the CCR&R's accreditation project in January 2010. She started the journey by completing her CDA to improve her skills as an early child care teacher as well as obtain her training hours for NAFCC accreditation. In October of this year, she was awarded National Association for Family Child Care accreditation. Mrs. Bird is very excited about what this means for her program, as well as the children and families her program serves. She proudly held up her certificate as she told her Technical Assistance Coordinator, Melissa Lovett, "This is the first thing that I ever did for myself!"

Charyles Dishmond is the owner/director of Shining Stars Daycare, a registered family daycare home in Augusta, GA. Ms. Dishmond has thirteen years of experience in the child care field; has been a family child care provider for seven years; and has a long-term goal to expand her program to a group daycare home. Dishmond successfully completed her Child Development Associate credential in July of 2010 and is currently working toward her BA in Early Childhood Education. In partnership with the CCR&R of Southeast Georgia, Charyles received training and technical assistance in pursuit of her most recent goal of national accreditation. In November 2011, Charyles reached this goal through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), which is yet another sign of her continued commitment to quality for the children in her care. Congratulations on your achievement of NAFCC Accreditation!



Greenbrier Preschool, located in Evans, GA is commended for their achievement of obtaining National Accreditation through the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). Charlie and Cathy Wall, Owners, and Lisa Taylor, Director; along with their staff began the accreditation process in October 2009. During the self assessment phase of the accreditation process, Greenbrier received technical assistance and training through Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral of Southeast Georgia. We congratulate the Administration and Staff of Greenbrier and The Bradley Schools for their commitment to provide quality child care and achieving this national recognition.

National Accreditation Spotlight

Congratulations to Kids World Learning Center, located in Bulloch County, on achieving National Accreditation from the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). Michelle Lank, Owner/Director, and her staff entered into the accreditation process in March of 2010. During the self-study phase, Mrs. Lank received technical assistance through Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral of Southeast Georgia. We congratulate Mrs. Lank and her staff for their hard work and dedication to achieving this National honor and to ensuring quality care for Georgia's children.



Mrs. Maryella Haynes is a FCC provider that serves military and civilian families in Hinesville. She has worked through multiple quality improvement and accreditation projects. Mrs. Haynes worked diligently to complete training hours and make quality improvements as she prepared for NAFCC accreditation. She was awarded National Association for Family Child Care accreditation in October of this year. Mrs. Haynes is very excited that her program has reached this level of quality. She spoke proudly of her accomplishments as she told her Technical Assistance Coordinator, Melissa Lovett, "I learned a lot through this process and I'm glad I did it."

A big congratulation goes to Oakbrook Country Day Preschool, located in Augusta, GA for receiving NECPA Accreditation on October 21, 2011. Oakbrook Preschool has been in operation since 1994. Charlie and Cathy Wall, Owners, and Allison Kennedy, Director; along with their staff entered into the accreditation process with the assistance of Early Start CCR&R in November 2009. Early Start CCR&R would like to congratulate Oakbrook Preschool for their hard work, dedication, and their commitment to maintaining high quality learning environments for children.



Harriett Williams, owner of Renee's Kids World in Savannah, was awarded her National Re-Accreditation from the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) on November 7, 2011. She has been nationally accredited since 2008.

Renee has been providing child care in her home for fourteen (14) years. Renee's Kids World offers 24 hour child care for children ages zero through school age. Her program provides a nurturing environment that encourages the cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development of all the children in her care. The parents of her program are an integral part of her success. She encourages them to be involved in their child's care through individual parent conferences, parent meetings, activities and social events. As part of the Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood program, Harriett provides nurturing care for military children.

National Accreditation Spotlight

Stacey's First Steps (*SFS*), owned and operated by Stacy Davis, a Family Child Care provider, located in Savannah, has been a family childcare provider since 2007. Stacey recently became nationally accredited with the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). She has 10 years of experience in the child care profession and currently holds an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Stacey attributes her success in child care to continuous and on-going training in the field of early childhood growth and development, health and safety, cultural and individual diversity, and professionalism. Congratulations *SFS* on national accreditation!



The Village Children's Learning Center, located in Hinesville, received news that they had achieved NAEYC Accreditation on September 13, 2011. The Village celebrated this accomplishment and demonstrated their appreciation by rolling out the red carpet for parents and staff. The staff was presented with roses and gold crowns. CCR&R Outreach Specialists as well as the Hunter Army Airfield Child Development Administrative Team and Staff were a part of the celebration. The Village has been in operation since 1999 and has been a part of the Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood program (ACCYN) since March 2008. Early Start CCR&R Region 5 congratulates The Village Learning Center on this achievement!

Wheeler Pines Preschool, located in Richmond County, is commended for their achievement of obtaining National Accreditation through the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). Charlie and Cathy Wall, Owners, and Katie Tracy, Director; along with their staff began the accreditation process in October 2009. During the self assessment phase of the accreditation process, Wheeler Pines received technical assistance and training through Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral of Southeast Georgia. We congratulate the Administration and Staff of Wheeler Pines and The Bradley Schools for their commitment to provide quality child care and achieving this national recognition.



CDA Graduation Spotlight

A graduation ceremony was held on November 19, 2011 to celebrate the completion of their 120 hours for 35 CDA candidates.. Hosted by Early Start CCRR, the Chatham Childcare Collaborative, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Youth Futures Authority, candidates began their training in January, meeting two Saturdays per month as the first step in the CDA process. Each candidate successfully completed a portfolio and a Resource File to meet the thirteen competency standards in their specialized area of care. The next step will be to complete the official observation and meet with a representative from the Council of Professional Recognition for an interview and written test. We wish each candidate much success as they move to the next level in their professional development.



Currently, there are 150 new candidates enrolled in four CDA classes throughout Region 5. Candidates are expected to complete their training in 2012 and will be ready to submit their application in time to meet the new educational requirements as set forth by Bright from the Start. If you are interested in moving to the next level in your career, please call our office for details on CDA classes to be offered in 2012.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

DATE	LOCATION	TRAINING HOURS	CEUS	Contact Person	Phone Number
1/14/12	Savannah	Six	.6	Lisa Jordan	912.652.7981
1/21/12	Waycross	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
2/18/12	Augusta	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
2/25/12	Kingsland	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
3/3/12	Hinesville	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
3/10/12	Dublin	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
3/24/12	Savannah	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
4/14/12	Brooklet	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
4/21/12	Brunswick	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
4/28/12	Swainsboro	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
5/12/12	ECI-Savannah	Six	.6	Lisa Jordan	912.652.7981

FREE Infant/Toddler Conferences- Contact Bright from the Start for more information at 770.359.5224

February 4, 2012 Series 1 - Responsive Care and Education for Infants and Toddlers	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401 912.651.2005	Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
January 28, 2012 Series 2 - Intentional Teaching Practices for Infants and Toddlers	Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites Two Tenth Street Augusta, GA 30901 706.722.8900	Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
April 28, 2012 Series 2 - Intentional Teaching Practices for Infants and Toddlers	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401 912.651.2005	Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
April 14, 2012 Series 3 -Language and Literacy for our Youngest Learners	Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites Two Tenth Street Augusta, GA 30901 706.722.8900	Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
May 19, 2012 Series 3 - Language and Literacy for our Youngest Learners	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401 912.651.2005	Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
April 27, 2012 Director Conference – Leadership that Supports High Quality Infant and Toddler Care	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401 912.651.2005	Registration 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Conference 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Caregivers page on our website for more Infant/Toddler Conference dates and locations:

www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org/caregivers.asp

For information about starting a Child Care program

Family Child Care and ROMs:

<http://decalfga.gov/ChildCareServices/FamilyDayCare.aspx>

Child Care Center/Group Day Care Homes and LOMs:

<http://decalfga.gov/ChildCareServices/ChildCareCenterGroupDayCare.aspx>

For approved training:

<https://www.training.decalfga.gov>

<http://ccrrofsoutheastga.org/caregivers.asp>

Registration payments may be made by check, money order, or credit card.

CCR&R Training Contacts:

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Environment Rating Scales

Program Structure

The last issue of the newsletter focused on the second subscale of the Environment Rating Scales (ERS); Personal Care Routines. This issue of the newsletter will focus on the sixth subscale of the ERS; **Program Structure**. In each of the rating scales (ITERS-R, ECERS-R, and FCCERS-R) the Program Structure subscale contains four items. These include:

ITERS-R Subscales: Schedule, Free Play, Provisions for Children with Disabilities, Group Play Activities

ECERS-R Subscales: Schedule, Free Play, Provisions for Children with Disabilities, Group Time

FCCERS-R Subscales: Schedule, Free Play, Provisions for Children with Disabilities, Group Time

In order to achieve quality throughout this subscale, there are key terms that need to be understood. A few helpful definitions are below, as defined by the ERS. Other definitions of important terms and ideas can be found in the scales themselves.

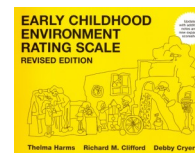
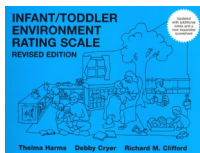
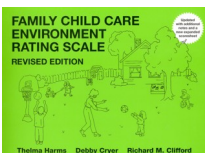
Schedule- The sequence of events that the children actually experience (or live) each day, in terms of how time is used.

Weather Permitting- Almost everyday, except in cases of active precipitation, extreme temperatures, or instances of weather warnings or public advisories.

Much of the Day- Most of the time that any child may be awake, alert and able to play.

Substantial Portion of the Day- 1/3 of the center's operating hours.

Free Play- Children are permitted to select materials and companions and as far as possible manage play independently. Adult interaction is in response to their needs.



Ideal Practices Within the Program Structure Subscale

In the following section, items from within this subscale are separated and ideal conditions or practices are listed under each. These practices are what programs should be working towards in order to achieve higher ratings (good or excellent) according to the scales.

Schedule

Ideally, the program's schedule will offer:

- Minimal waiting periods between daily events
- A variety of play activities daily, both teacher directed and child initiated
- A balance of indoor and outdoor activities
- Smooth transitions between daily events
- Individualized, adjusted, or varied schedules; as needed in order to meet individual needs of children

Free Play

Ideally, the program will offer free play that:

- Occurs for much of the day (FCCERS-R and ITERS-R) or a substantial portion of the day (ECERS-R)
- Includes provider/staff actively involved in facilitating children's play
- Includes ample and varied toys, games, and equipment for free play
- Uses supervision as a regular educational interaction
- Is enhanced by materials being added (new or rotated) to stimulate interest

Environment Rating Scales

Provisions for Children with Disabilities

Ideally, the program will demonstrate that:

- Provider/staff follow through with activities/interactions recommended by other professionals
- Modifications made as needed in the environment
- Parents are frequently involved in sharing information with provider/staff
- Children with disabilities are integrated into the group and participate in most activities
- Most of the professional intervention is carried out within the regular activities of the home/classroom
- Provider/staff contribute to individual assessments and intervention plans

Group Play Activities (ITERS-R)

Ideally, programs will offer group play activities that:

- Never force children to participate
- Offer appropriate group sizes for age and ability of children
- Offer alternate activities accessible for children who don't want to participate in group
- Are set up to maximize children's success (Ex. Enough space, active participation encouraged).
- Meet individual needs of children to encourage participation

Group Time (ECERS-R and FCCERS-R)

Ideally, programs will offer group times that:

- Offer alternative activities for children not participating in whole-group activity
- Limit whole-group gatherings to short periods
- Provide a change of pace through different groupings (individual interaction, small groups, whole group gatherings)
- Provide many opportunities for children to self-select small groups

Over the next few installments of the CCR&R newsletter, we will continue to highlight information from specific subscales of the ERS, and relaying valuable tips for implementing improvements based on their standards. For more information on the scales, resources, or for further information, please visit the Environment Rating Scales Web site: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu>.

What Skills Are Involved in Forming Friendships and Social Relationships?

To develop friendships, children need many opportunities to interact successfully with their peers. These interactions can be simple, such as passing items at a snack table, or more complex and extended, such as working together on a cooperative art project. Teachers play an important role in planning and supporting these activities. Instruction to develop social relationships should occur every day and across all classroom areas and activities. The teacher's role in supporting positive social relationships is often a delicate balance between helping and stepping back. The teacher should facilitate children's interactions but not interfere or take over the situation.

Not only can teachers arrange the classroom environment to support positive social interactions but can also teach their students skills that are key to positive relationships. These skills include, but are not limited to, being aware of others, sharing, helping others, persisting or making efforts to maintain social interactions, organizing play with others, being able to enter play situations, giving compliments, negotiating and solving conflicts.

As with all skills, friendship skills can be incorporated into the general curriculum, and teachers should identify friendship learning objectives for children who are struggling with peer interaction.

Friendships and Social Relationships

Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs, 2nd Ed, Susan R. Randall & Ilene S. Schwarty. (2008)

For information on Inclusion Services contact our Inclusion Coordinators

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