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https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr

#### Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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Brian P. Kemp
Governor
Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

January 2024

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

Happy New Year! I am writing to give you an update from DECAL's Nutrition Services team. Nutrition and physical activity are such an important foundation for children's growth, development, and learning; and we applaud everything you do for the children in your care to keep them active and well.

As you may know, Nutrition Services administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. Both programs are

funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the most vulnerable children and adults with improved nutrition. We work with local sponsors and other institutions that serve nutritious meals and snacks around the state. In the last federal fiscal year (ending September 30, 2023) 513 CACFP institutions served almost 65 million meals in 157 counties, and 69 Happy Helpings sponsors served almost 3 million meals in 101 counties. We are very grateful for their service.

This is the time of year when we begin recruiting sponsoring organizations to participate in Happy Helpings. This very important service provides meals and snacks for children in low-income areas during the summer months when they are

not in school. Our goal is to have at least one meal site in each of Georgia's 159 counties. During the past two years, we received state funds that allowed us to offer start-up grants to new or experienced sponsors that enabled them to expand their meal service into previously unserved counties. Thanks to this funding and the initiative of sponsors, children had access to meals in 101 Georgia counties last summer. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer more start-up grants in the near future.

We would love to have your help reaching potential sponsors in any of the 58 unserved counties listed below. If you are affiliated with an organization that may be able to sponsor or operate a feeding site in one of these counties, please call 404-657-1779 or visit the Happy Helpings website at <a href="https://happyhelpingsga.com/">https://happyhelpingsga.com/</a>

Appling	Cook	Jenkins	Pickens	Turner
Atkinson	Dade	Johnson	Pierce	Union
Bacon	Dawson	Laurens	Pulaski	Warren
Banks	Dodge	Lincoln	Quitman	Webster
Berrien	Emanuel	Long	Schley	Wheeler
Brantley	Evans	Lumpkin	Screven	White
Brooks	Gilmer	Marion	Stewart	Wilcox
Calhoun	Gordon	Miller	Sumter	Wilkes
Camden	Haralson	Montgomery	Talbot	Wilkinson
Charlton	Heard	Murray	Telfair	Worth
Chattahoochee	Jasper	Oconee	Towns	
Clay	Jeff Davis	Oglethorpe	Treutlen	

Thanks for helping us expand our reach. I hope you have a healthy and prosperous year!

Sincerely,

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Rian Ringsrud

Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration

## From the Director's Chair: Ideas, Information & Resources

### Ideas to Help You Build a Stronger Child Care Business

- 1. Reflect on the past year with your team and families.
  - -Use surveys, Q&A events, etc...
  - -Use feedback to create goals for needed changes.
- 2. Make a plan to retain and motivate staff.
  - -Verbally tell staff why you appreciate them (OFTEN!).
  - -Implement opportunities for staff to grow.
  - -Ask teachers what support they need from you.
  - -Have an open-door policy for your office to encourage staff to come to you when they need to.
- 3. Implement new, creative ideas for Maintaining current enrollment and increasing new enrollment.
  - -Offer free tuition for referrals.
  - -Plan family fun nights and open these to the community as well as post on social media.
  - -Offer occasional after-hours care like a Parent's Night Out.
  - -Plan a yearly or bi-yearly family fun day (carnival, Santa/Christmas event, etc...) and open to the community.

33 Ideas to Try Now for a Stronger Childcare Business (mybrightwheel.com)



# Congratulations

to these new Quality Rated providers!



Cherished Children



Tracy's Stay N Play



Brittaney Overstreet - Family Child Care Learning Home



Albany Technical Institute CDC



Bright Generations Child Care Center



Laura Angela - Family Child Care Learning Home

#### **High-Scoring ERS Classrooms:**

- Have at least 1 hour of free play during a 3-hour observation (Or throughout the day for ITERS classrooms)
- Have at least 5 interest centers dedicated to that particular activity (blocks, art, reading, fine motor, dramatic play, science)
- Have a space for privacy set up for children to use uninterrupted (set for 1-2 friends)
- Have many colorful display items and discuss the display with children throughout the day (math, individual artwork, simple pictures, diversity)
- Use (outdoor) gross motor space for at least 30 minutes during a 3-hour observation
- Explain the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Have many conversations (back and forth), throughout the day in both routines and free play
- Read books informally to children throughout the day
- Show interest when children use books independently
- Show interest and ask questions as children use fine motor materials
- Encourage children to participate in music and movement activities
- Encourage children to participate in block play
- Encourage children to participate in dramatic play and have conversations with children as they play
- Model concern for the environment and encourage children to interact with living things
- Use math talk throughout the day, and point to items as they count them, reference a display
- Help children develop new gross motor skills
- Interact positively with children throughout the day, and eliminate negative interactions
- Show appropriate physical warmth to children, no kissing
- Encourage children to use words with one another and be respectful of one another, pointing out positive interactions (Gentle touches for ITERS)
- Are responsive to upset children are help them when they are struggling
- Explain the reasons behind specific expectations
- Have gradual transitions and are usually prepared for the next activity before a transition
- Make sure group times fit the needs of the individual children and are flexible



Albany's South Georgia Early Learning Committee is pleased to announce the:

# 2024 Early Learning Conference

Saturday, March 9, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Albany State University West Campus** 

\$50.00 (lunch provided) / 5 DECAL credit hours



"Moving F.O.R.W.A.R.D. Toward Success" featuring
Children's author and educator, Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson.
Dr. Kimberly is a creative thinker and has a passion for teaching and helping others. She is currently a faculty member at Clemson University and teaches Creative Activities for Youth, Designing Effective Youth Programs, Youth and Family, and Working with Diverse Youth. Dr. Kimberly is a course facilitator for the Leading Learning, Managing Evidence and Leading with Equity and Excellence courses at Harvard

Dr. Kimberly is an Ambassador for The King Center in Atlanta and a program collaborator for Dr. Bernice A. King, the last living daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Kimberly is proud to be a former Head Start Kid!

University in the Graduate School of Education.

The South Georgia Early Learning Committee is pleased to announce the South Georgia, 2024, spring educational event for early learning professionals. The conference features a vast assortment of cutting-edge sessions including classroom behavior management, unique activities to enhance curriculums, staff management, and multiple sessions using hands-on activities. These are only a few examples of the exciting professional development offered throughout the conference.

Load up the van and join us for a day that will change the way you think about your business and educate young children for their best start in life!

### Scan here to REGISTER TODAY!



IN QUALITY CHILD CARE



Door Prizes-Early Childhood Education Vendors and MORE

# All Smiles - Family Child Care Learning Home Thomasville, GA, 3 - Stars!!!

All Smiles Family Child Care Learning Home is owned and operated by my husband and I. We have been married 31 years, raised 5 children, and currently helping to raise 11 grandchildren. All Smiles has been serving Thomas County and the surrounding counties since September 2022.

We are a family child care learning home with a welcoming heart and a passion for early childhood education. We currently serve 6 weeks to 12 years and are open to offering extended care hours for those in need. We have just recently received our 3-star rating from Quality Rated and that has motivated us to excel in what we do! We are living our dream doing what we love to do and making an impact in our community.





# Laura Anglea - Family Child Care Learning Home Thomasville, GA, 3 - Stars!!!



I have worked with children since the late 90s when I first opened my in-home child care in Thomasville. After moving to North Carolina in 2000 I taught at a private preschool for three years and then managed a busy medical practice for 14 years when we moved back to Thomasville. I became licensed again for my family child care learning home in 2019, finished my child development specialist TCC in 2021, and most recently received my 3-star rating from Quality Rated. I provide care for teachers' children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old and follow the county school system calendar.

Years of working with children combined with my managerial skills have contributed to the success of my family child care learning home. I am always striving for ways to help children learn while having fun. A successful and profitable business is a daily goal as well.

~ Laura Anglea/Owner

# **Books Galore and So Much More!**

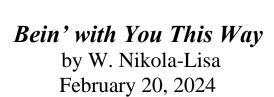
An Early Childhood Educator's Book Club Virtual Lunch and Learn Series

Come join the "Book Club" and learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom!

> This 3-part series will be offered once each month for January, February, and March 2024.

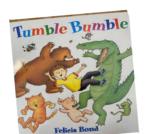
The time will be 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The cost of the series is \$30 If you wish to register for individual sessions, the cost is \$12 per session.

> Davis Smells! by David Shannon January 19, 2024



Tumble Bumble by Felicia Bond

March 19, 2024





Each session includes a copy of the featured book and 2 BFTS Approved Hrs.





# The Family Gathering: Ideas, Information, & Resources for FCCLHs

What Makes Your Child Care Family Learning Home Stand Out?

- 1. Develop a unique curriculum.
  - -fun ideas like cooking with the children, parent volunteers for teaching new skills, etc.
- 2. Provide a clean and safe environment.
  - -first impressions are everything, think about curb appeal and what the entryway of your house says about safety and cleanliness.
- 3. Connect with parents.
  - -use ideas like Facebook, emails, and text messages to communicate to parents about their children throughout the day.
- 4. Create a strong advertising plan.
  - -use your parents for referrals, have a strong social media presence, and take advantage of free advertising opportunities.

Make Your Daycare Stand Out | Unique Daycare Activities (jackrabbitcare.com)



#### What is a PLC?

A PLC is a group of individuals who are collaboratively engaged in concept-driven learning by raising questions that are relevant to their context and working together to answer those questions. To better understand what a PLC is, it's often useful to start with what a PLC is not a workshop. PLCs honor the expertise within the group and brings groups of people together to learn.

Secondly, a PLC is not a replacement name for a committee meeting, staff meeting, team meeting, etc. These types of meetings serve a purpose and have a place in the workplace, but they are not focused on learning as a primary goal.

#### What Does this mean for you?

Our Technical Assistance Coordinators offer PLCs as an additional way to provide Professional Development. In some cases, the PLC session can earn training credit for participants. If you are interested in learning more about how a PLC can support your growth in quality; please reach out to either your Technical Assistance Coordinator (TAC), or call our CCR&R office at: 229.500.2895 to be connected with someone who can answer your questions.

# Training Calendar – January, February, & March 2024

<b>Tuesday, January 9, 2024</b> 6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.	Math in the Early Childhood Classroom – 2 hrs.  Math should be an everyday thing in a preschool classroom. Children love	Polly Raike BFTS Approved
\$10 Webinar	Creative Math Activities!	Trainer
Thursday, January 11, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Indoor and Outdoor Hazards – 2 hrs.  Come learn proper procedures to follow for a safe environment both indoors and outdoors which includes information from BFTS Rules and Regulations, Physical Plant, Playground Safety, and Building and Grounds.	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, January 13, 2024 9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. \$25  Joyful Journeys 8358 Fortson Ct. Fortson, GA 31820	Let's Play: Let's Make Science and Let's Make Art – 4 hrs.  Spark your enthusiasm and curiosity for art and scientific exploration in the ERS Art and Science sub-scale. This interactive training (learning through play), will delve into the world of art and science education, discovering how to create an environment that fosters scientific discovery and empowers children to learn through hands-on, engaging experiences.	Jennifer Taylor & Alicia Mills BFTS Approved Trainers
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:00 p.m 2:00 p.m. \$12  Webinar  Each session includes a copy of the featured book!	Bringing Stories to Life! Storytelling and Enhancing Your Classroom Featuring the Book: David Smells by David Shannon – 2 hrs.  Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book David Smells.	Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Teachers and Parents Advocating for Students Success (Using their Influences to Communicate with Communities & Policymakers) – 2 hrs.  Come learn ways to create partnerships between teachers and parents to advocate for children while learning how to get involved with communities and policymakers.	<b>Linda Davis</b> BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:00 a.m 4:00 p.m. \$30  Super Saturday!!!  Brantley's Busy Bee Learning Center 4628 Bloomfield Rd Macon, GA 31206	Sip and Paint-Developing Social, Emotional, and Creative Skills – 6 hrs.  As Philip Pullman once said, "Children need art and stories and poems and music as much as they need love and food and fresh air and play." This training will give them just that!!! Come be introduced to "Intentional ART", giving children the opportunity to Inspire creative thinking! Thus, being able to freely express their feelings/emotions through Art (painting), while enhancing their socialization skills in a more relaxed classroom environment to stimulate social interaction with their peers and adults.	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, January 27, 2024 9:00 a.m 2:30 p.m. \$60  Albany State University- WestBuilding J, Room 128 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707	CPR/First Aid  American Heart Association  Learn how to recognize and alleviate airway obstructions, and the signs, symptoms, and corrective action for a stroke or heart attack.  Also, learn to recognize and treat minor medical emergencies.	<b>Judy Gaines</b> Certified Instructor
Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Avoiding the Storm  Managing Coworker and Administrative Challenges – 2 hrs.  Join us to learn practical methods to manage stress and conflict between coworkers, administration, and parents by learning new ways to lower your stress levels.	<b>Lori Sugarman</b> BFTS Approved Trainer

<b>Tuesday, February 6, 2024</b> 6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.	Nurturing the Minds, Spirits, and Bodies of Infants and Toddlers Through the Environment – 2 hrs.	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Webinar	Infant and toddler teachers will learn how to organize and make good use of their environment to benefit the needs and development of young children.	
<b>Thursday, February 8, 2024</b> 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. <b>\$10</b>	Safe Sleep Practices – 2 hrs.  Engage in practicing and demonstrating skills of Safe Sleep Practices. This training follows the BFTS Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements Rule 591-	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Webinar	1-130.	
Saturday, February 17, 2024 9:00 a.m 2:30 p.m. \$60  Easter Seals West Georgia 2515 Double Churches Road	CPR/First Aid  American Heart Association  Learn how to recognize and alleviate airway obstructions, and the signs, symptoms, and corrective action for a stroke or heart attack.	Judy Gaines Certified Instructor
Columbus, GA 31909	Also, learn to recognize and treat minor medical emergencies.	Dianne Fitchlee
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:00 p.m 2:00 p.m. \$12  Webinar  Each session includes a copy of the featured book!	Featuring the Book: Bein' with You This Way by W. Nikola-Lisa – 2 hrs.  Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book Bein' with You This Way.  des a copy of	
Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Let's Keep Infectious Diseases Out Of Our Classrooms – 2 hrs.  Learn what infectious disease is and how it can cause harm not only to you but adults and children around you.	<b>Linda Davis</b> BFTS Approved Trainer
<b>Saturday, February 24, 2024</b> 9:00 a.m 4:00 p.m. <b>\$30</b>	Supervision Made Easy – 4 hrs.  Are you sure you have adequate supervision?  Learn how to create a safe and secure environment for children and staff by	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Super Saturday!!!	following the rules and regulations.	
Little Children Shines Academy 2458 Locksley Drive Macon, GA 31206	Arts and Crafts for Children with Special Needs – 2 hrs.  Come explore, plan, and create Arts and Crafts projects that are all-inclusive and learn about the "How to" in adapting Arts and Crafts projects for children with special needs.	
<b>Saturday, March 2, 2024</b> 9:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. <b>Free</b>	Strengthening Business Practices Module 1: Budgets, Projections, and Planning for Center-Based Child Care Providers – 3 hrs.	Estelle Rothwell BFTS Approved Trainer
Strengthening Business Practices Super Saturday!!!	The purpose of this training is to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of fiscal terms, concepts, and practices. It encourages providers to realize the importance of fiscal planning to the sustainability of their business operations. It supplies tips and best practices to help break down fiscal processes into manageable steps. This training is	
Albany State University-West Building J, Room 128 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707	part one of a series, Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs, which addresses basic concepts in fiscal and operational management of center-based child care programs.	
Aibaily, GA 31/0/	Strengthening Business Practices Module 2: Financial Reports and Internal Controls for Center-Based Childcare Providers – 3 hrs.	
	The purpose of this training is to strengthen childcare providers' understanding of financial reports and their use in fiscal management. The training also introduces the concept of internal controls and how they can strengthen the fiscal health of a childcare program.	

Thursday, March 7, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Discipline and Supervision- Do's, Don'ts, and Can'ts – 2 hrs.  Come learn specific approaches and techniques to discipline and supervise per Bright from the Start rules and regulations.	<b>Lori Sugarman</b> BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, March 14, 2024 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10  Webinar	Lesson Plans Made Simple Using GELDS – 2 hrs.  Join us to learn a fun and exciting way of incorporating GELDS into your lesson plans.	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. \$20 Webinar	Musical Tipsy Toes – 4 hrs.  Come explore ways to increase music in the classrooms and music that is developmentally appropriate for different ages.	<b>Linda Davis</b> BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:00 p.m 2:00 p.m. \$12  Webinar  Each session includes a copy of the featured book!	Bringing Stories to Life! Storytelling and Enhancing Your Classroom Featuring the Book: Tumble Bumble by Felicia Bond – 2 hrs.  Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book Tumble Bumble.	<b>Dianne Fitchlee</b> BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, March 30, 2024 9:00 a.m 4:00 p.m. \$30  Super Saturday!!!  Bent Axel Grille 125 West Clinton St Gray, GA 31032	Influences Sociocultural Context Have on DLLs Language Development – 4 hrs.  By attending this training, you will find the answer to one of the most asked questions, "How can I support the DLL's home language, when we don't speak the same language?" Join us to find out the answer to this question and more as we gain additional knowledge of the Influences Sociocultural Context has on DLLs' Language Development. Bringing children, families, communities, and the culture of ECE together.  Health and Safety Awareness – 2 hrs.  Join us to learn how to provide a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment for the children to grow, develop, and learn. Main areas of focus will be health and safety awareness, children's health, hygiene, physical plant, and playground safety.	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer

Did you know that our Technical Assistance Coordinators (TACs) can offer you and your staff private trainings for a very low cost? Our staff that provide your TA for Quality Rated, can also assist your program in its continuing efforts for early education and training.

We can provide professional development on a wide variety of topics or areas of direct need for your staff and/or program virtually or onsite at your program. Our TACs can help assess your needs for professional development and offer trainings specifically to meet those needs.

If you are interested in having a Technical Assistance Coordinator speak with you about scheduling a training, let your TAC know today, or call our Training Administrator, Margo Sanders: 229.500.2897 or margo.sanders@asurams.edu.



### TRAINING REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1. To locate the training calendar and register for the training of your choice, go to <a href="https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php">www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php</a>, where you can register and submit payment through Eventbrite.
- 2. Email blasts are sent twice a week as a reminder of upcoming sessions. Please check your email often.
- 3. **Webinars**-You must attend virtually and participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions during the training to receive a certificate.
- 4. No one is admitted to any training without prior registration and payment if required.
- 5. Registrations must be received at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled training date.
- 6. Credit and refunds for cancellations are not allowed. Canceling your registration requires at least a 24-hour notice. When calling to cancel, you may apply your payment toward another scheduled training.
- 7. If you register for free training and do not attend, your registration for free training in the future may not be accepted.

#### **How to Attend the Webinar Training Session**

- 1. Register for the training through the <u>www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php</u> website by purchasing a ticket through Eventbrite.
- 2. You will receive an email with an invitation to join the session along with handouts as attachments on the day of the weekday training or the day before for a weekend training.
- 3. When it is time to join the session, you will need to click the link in the email. You may need to download an application to your computer or phone in order to join so please be sure to log in early. Once the application is downloaded, you will be able to join the session.

#### IMPORTANT: YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL FEES FOR TRAINING ARE RECEIVED.

For training information and questions, contact Training Administrator, Margo Sanders at 229.500.2897/866.833.3552 margo.sanders@asurams.edu

https://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/update-your-info-for-referrals



## <u>Update Your Info for Referrals — Quality</u> Care for Children

Update your child care program's information to ensure parents get accurate information when recieving referrals from Quality Care for Children.

www.qualitycareforchildren.org



*Like* us on Facebook <u>@ccrrofswga</u> & on <u>@</u> @ <u>ccrrofswga</u> then follow us for the latest highlights, fun activities, updates and scheduled trainings! And visit: https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr/index.php



# Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest Georgia at Albany Albany State University

Serving Early Care Professionals Toward Excellence in Quality Child Care

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