

# Quality Matters

Fall 2008

## Back to School For You

Tax free weekends, school supplies lists, teachers preparing their classrooms and lesson plans, and children getting new school clothes. All these signal, "Back to School" time. As the children head back to school, remember that your professional development is also important. Create a plan for obtaining training to become the best teacher you can be!

The Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System (GECEPDS) can help you accomplish this. Georgia is one of the few states to have competency standards for our profession. Do you meet these standards? These can be found at [www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/resources.do](http://www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/resources.do)

The GECEPDS has developed a self assessment so you can evaluate your professional development goals. The checklists can be found at [www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/includes/files/SelfAssessmentToolsCompetency.pdf](http://www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/includes/files/SelfAssessmentToolsCompetency.pdf).

Enroll in the Professional Development Registry and become involved in an online, secure database that tracks your education, credentials, training, employment experience, contributions, and professional accomplishments. Find out where you land on Georgia's Early Care and Learning Career Ladder. <https://www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/pdrApplication.do>

Once you've evaluated yourself and decided the areas in which you'd like to obtain additional training, remember:

Training is a professional commitment that will involve your time and money and may impact your future career options. Take the time to investigate and choose the training that is beneficial for you. When you call or inquire about a training program, class, or workshop, it can be helpful to have questions about the trainer and the training prepared in order to make sure you are getting the training you want and need.



You need to be satisfied with the answers and with the trainer.

Whether you are pursuing training for yourself or are arranging professional development training for your staff, this information will help you evaluate the training opportunities available to you.

*Is the trainer qualified?* Ask about the instructor's qualifications. Include questions about the instructor's educational background, knowledge on the topic of training, years of experience as a trainer, and years of experience working with young children. Making sure that the trainer is state-approved is one way to ensure that the training meets the standard for training set by Georgia Training Approval.

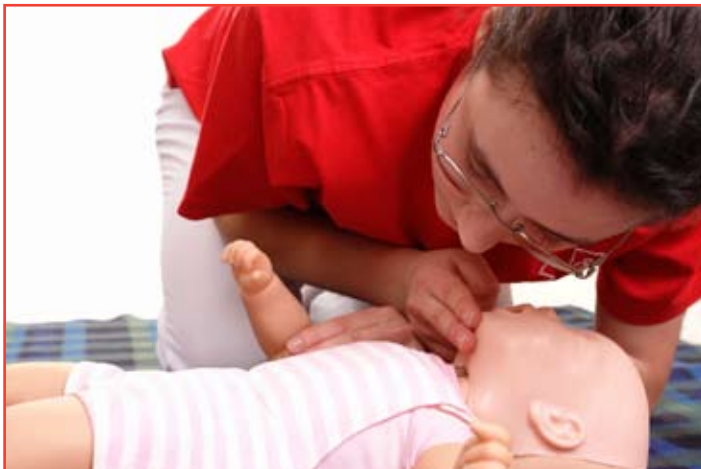
*What is the cost?* Cost for training varies widely but usually averages between \$5 to \$15 per hour of training. If the training is funded by another source, it may be available for little or no cost. Make sure to ask about the cost of the training, how many hours of training the cost includes, and whether or not there is an extra charge for materials, supplies, credit, etc.

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Also be sure to ask what methods of payment (cash, purchase order from your employer, check, charge, etc.) are accepted and about refund policies in the event you cannot attend a training that you have registered and paid for.

*When and where is the training offered?* Training is offered in various locations, times and days. Look for training that best fits your schedule. Some employers offer training for their staff during their regular work times, some do not. Be sure to find out when and where the training is offered so you can decide if you are able to attend.

*What format is the training?* Most training is offered in a face-to-face format. Many people prefer a face-to-face class or workshop because of the opportunities to interact more with the trainer and with others in the class. More and more opportunities are becoming available for training in other formats such as conferences, independent study, and web-based instruction. Make sure that all training you take will meet your needs. If you want the training you take to count for BFTS licensing/registration requirements, remember that the training must be state-approved or state-accepted. If you are not sure, consult the Georgia Professional Development System website at [www.training.decal.state.ga.us](http://www.training.decal.state.ga.us) or call 706-583-0248.



## Where to Find Training

### Professional Development Sources

#### 1. Formal Education through Technical Schools, Accredited Colleges, and Universities

Courses offered at these technical schools, accredited colleges, and universities traditionally are taught over a period of months and carry some type of academic credit or continuing education units (CEUs). These courses usually lead to some type of credential, certificate, diploma, or degree.

#### 2. Community Based Training

Professional development opportunities are also available through Georgia's community-based training delivery system. This system includes: Independent trainers and consultants, Quality Care for Children, training companies, and conferences offered by professional membership organizations such as the Georgia Association on Young Children.

### Questions to Consider when Evaluating Training Options

Does the program description or advertisement say what you will learn?

- Are the skills and knowledge you will be expected to learn up-to-date and related to real requirements?
- Is there flexibility in scheduling and delivery?
- Will the method(s) of instruction ensure that you can learn?
- Do you know how you will be evaluated?
- Will your instructors be top quality?

Information for this article was obtained from the Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System webpage. To access additional resources: [www.training.decal.state.ga.us](http://www.training.decal.state.ga.us)



# Training Opportunities

Date	Day	Event	Phone	Fee	Time
Aug. 28, 2008	Thursday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sept. 6, 2008	Saturday	CPR / First Aid	404-479-4230	\$25	9:00am - 2:30pm
Sept. 9, 2008	Tuesday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sept. 10-12, and 15-17, 2008	Wed.-Fri. & Mon. –Wed.	The ABC's of Effective Child Care Leadership, 40 Hour Director's Training (ADM 1-9, ECE 1-3)	404-479-4236	\$50 Registration required (due by Sept. 8); \$400 due Sept. 10).	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Sept. 13, 2008	Saturday	Intentional Interactions with Young Children (ECE 4)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	8:30 am- 10:30 am
Sept. 13, 2008	Saturday	The Challenging Child: Behavior Management with Infants & Toddlers (ECE 4)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	10:45am– 12:45 pm
Sept. 13, 2008	Saturday	Tackling Transitions with Infants & Toddlers (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	1:15pm to 3:15pm
Sept. 16, 2008	Tuesday	BFTS General Information Session	404-657-5562	Free	9:00am- 10:30am
Sept. 20, 2008	Saturday	How to Start a Family Child Care (ADM 6)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration; \$25; \$35 walk in	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sept. 23, 2008	Tuesday	Registration Orientation Meeting	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$5; No walk-ins	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sept. 24, 2008	Wednesday	Get Ready to Read ( <i>For four year old teachers</i> ) (ECE 3)	404-479-4230	\$5; Pre-registration required	7:00pm- 9:00 pm
Sept. 25, 2008	Thursday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sept. 27, 2008	Saturday	NAFCC Super Saturday Training	404-479-4208	Call for information	8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14 & 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25, Dec. 2, 9 & 16, Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28, May 5, 12 & 19, Jun. 2, 9, 16 & 23, Jul. 7, 14, 21 & 28, & Aug. 4	Tuesday evenings	Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	404-479-4230	\$90 registration and 10 payments of \$91; Pre-registration required.	6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Oct. 1, 2008	Wednesday	How to Lose a Germ in 10 Seconds: Infectious Disease Control (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	8:30 am-10:30 am
Oct. 1, 2008	Wednesday	A Band-aid a Day Keeps the Doctor Away: Health and Safety (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	10:45am-12:45 pm
Oct. 1, 2008	Wednesday	Child Abuse Detecting and Reporting (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	1:15 pm to 3:15pm
Oct 4, 2008	Saturday	Look Before You Leap, Opening a Child Care Center (ADM 1, 5)	800-204-9886	\$15; pre-registration required	10:00am - 1:00pm
Oct. 4, 2008	Saturday	CPR / First Aid	404-479-4230	\$25	9:00am - 2:30pm
Oct. 18, 2008	Saturday	How to Start a Family Child Care (ADM 6)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration: \$25; \$35 walk in	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Oct. 21, 2008	Tuesday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Oct. 28, 2008	Tuesday	Registration Orientation Meeting	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required. \$5; No walk-ins	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Oct. 30, 2008	Thursday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Nov. 1, 2008	Saturday	CPR / First Aid	404-479-4230	\$25	9:00am - 2:30pm
Nov. 4 & 6, 2008	Tuesday and Thursday	How to Start a Family Child Care (ADM 6)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration; \$25; \$35 walk in	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
Nov. 6, 2008	Thursday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Nov. 18, 2008	Tuesday	Registration Orientation Meeting	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$5; No walk-ins	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Nov. 20, 2008	Thursday	Licensing Orientation Meeting	404-657-5562	Free; first 50 people only	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Dec. 2, 2008	Tuesday	BFTS General Information Session	404-657-5562	Free	9:00am-10:30am
Dec. 6, 2008	Saturday	CPR / First Aid	404-479-4230	\$25	9:00am - 2:30pm
Dec. 6, 2008	Saturday	How to Lose a Germ in 10 Seconds: Infectious Disease Control (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	8:30 am-10:30 am
Dec. 6, 2008	Saturday	A Band-aid a Day Keeps the Doctor Away: Health and Safety (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	10:45am-12:45 pm
Dec. 6, 2008	Saturday	Child Abuse Detecting and Reporting (ECE 2)	404-479-4230	Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three	1:15 pm to 3:15pm

# An Apple a Day

## Fun Activities for Preschoolers



**Science/Cooking:** No bake applesauce. 6 apples, Cinnamon, to taste, 1/2 c. brown sugar, 1/2 c. water, and blender. After coring and peeling the apples, let preschool children cut apples into chunks. Mix all ingredients in blender. Eat immediately. Discuss with the children what changes occurred in the apples. Save the seeds for the art activity.

**Dramatic Play:** Set up an Apple Stand. Prepare an apple stand by providing the children with bags, plastic or real apples, cash register, money, stand, and bushels. Encourage the children to buy, sell, and package the apples.

**Sensory:** Provide the children with applesauce, apple pie, apple juice, or apple cider to taste during snack or lunch. Save the seeds for the art activity.

**Art: Shakers:** Ask parents and other teachers to collect apple seeds. You'll also need paper plates, glue/tape, crayons or markers. Preschool children decorate the paper plates with the crayons or markers. Place the seeds between the two plates and glue or tape the edges. The children can use the shakers as a means of self-expression during music or self-directed play.

**Math:** Cut apple shapes of various sizes from construction paper. Let the children sequence the shapes from smallest to largest.

**Library:**

**Ten Red Apples** by Pat Hutchins

**How Do Apples Grow?** by Betsy Maestro

**Albert's Fieldtrip** by Leslie Tryon

**Johnny Appleseed** by Steven Kellogg

Activities from: Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom, 4th Edition. Judy Herr and Yvonne Libby Larson, 2004. Delmar Learning: Clifton Park, NY.

## Provider Spotlight: Sandy Springs Center Earns Quality Recognition

Apostles Lutheran Day School Apostles Lutheran Day School received the Center of Distinction award from Bright From The Start, effective July 1, 2008. The school has served the community with quality education and care for the past 35 years with nurturing and qualified staff who worked hard to complete the process of implementing high quality in areas such as Health, Safety, Language and Literacy, Arts, Science and Math. Director Savitri Damodaran says, "I have seen the highest level of team work among staff during this entire process. Our children and staff are already experiencing the positive impacts of Center of Distinction."

Damodaran states, "We thank Quality Care for Children's staff who inspired the us to achieve our goal through training and on-the-spot technical assistance during the entire process."



Savitri Damodaran,  
Director



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## Earn your CDA

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential helps teachers and family child care providers whose programs are striving for high quality.

The CDA focuses on teaching candidates to:

- plan a safe, healthy learning environment
- help children's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development
- manage effective program operation
- establish positive relationships with families
- maintain a commitment to professionalism
- observe and record children's behavior

You can get your CDA training by attending a college, university, technical college, child care resource and referral agency, or a federal agency that is offering CDA Training. Attending a college or university makes the Hope and Pell grants along with the Georgia Scholarships and Incentives Program available for financial aid. For more information on Scholarships and Incentives call 678-822-5199.

Quality Care for Children will be offering an evening CDA class starting September 30, 2008 to be completed by August 4, 2009. It will be offered Tuesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at our office, 50 Executive Park South, Suite 5015, Atlanta, GA 30329. Contact Lisa Belliston at 404-479-4260 for more information.