



# Quality Matters

Spring 2008

## Bring Georgia Together for Children

*Celebrate National Week of the Young Child April 13-19, 2008*

As part of the National Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, we are honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives. All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and you have a great opportunity to do your part to help young children. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children, and to bring us together to help give all young children a great start.

Week of the Young Child is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country, including child care and Head Start programs, preschools and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which helps children get a great start, and brings lasting benefits to Georgia. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

### **Week of the Young Child Ideas to Promote Early Literacy**

- Create a family story time. Invite families to participate in your story time and other reading activities like becoming a reading partner to a child in the classroom. Some parents may prefer to chaperone a field trip to the library.



- Hold a kick-off breakfast for family and community reading partners. Photograph children with their reading partners (preferably someone who can read with the child more than once a week). Then post the pictures on a sheet of paper. Ask the child-adult partners to write their comments about the books they read under their picture throughout the week.
- Ask businesses or other community partners to help fund a project to create story theme bags with books, games, and suggested family activities to do at home. Plan a kick-off event during Week of the Young Child to demonstrate how the bags can be used and to recognize business and other community partners.
- Have children write or dictate their opinions of classroom books and rate them with stars. Tally the results and post the chart in the classroom. Publish in your parent newsletter a list of the five-star books along with student reviews.

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- Organize a Children's Book Festival to celebrate reading. Children and families can dress as their favorite book characters. Businesses or organizations might provide free books to children; families can participate in a book swap. Local celebrities or public officials can read stories and theater groups can perform puppet shows or skits.

#### **Week of the Young Child Idea to Thank Teachers**

- Plan a thank-you breakfast or lunch for the teachers. Ask parents and families to participate. Have the children draw pictures and write notes to their teachers.

#### **Week of the Young Child Idea to Influence Public Policy**

- Get families involved. Ask program directors to help recruit families willing to talk about their child care experiences with policy makers and the media.
- Join Children's Champion's an email advocacy alert distributed by NAEYC. Go to <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/> and click on "Join our email list".

### **Come to a Director's Roundtable on the new Focused Monitoring Visits for Child Care Learning Centers**

Are you interested in the new Focused Visit system being implemented by Bright From the Start for licensed child care centers? Do you need your questions answered? If so, plan on attending this information session being offered, Wednesday, March 26, 2008 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Reserve your spot by Monday, March 24, 2008 by calling or emailing Sharon Maloney at 404-479-4136 or Sharon.Maloney@qualitycareforchildren.org.



### **Art Contest in Honor of Month of the Young Child!**

Submit your artwork. The theme for the contest is "Ready, Set, Create!" All artwork must be flat; no three-dimensional art will be accepted. The age categories are 3-4 years of age, 5-7 years of age, and 8-11 years of age. Entries will be accepted April 1st through 5:00 pm on April 8, 2008. Winners will be notified by April 10, 2008. A reception will be held in honor of the winners on Thursday, April 17th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. All artwork should be submitted to Sharon Maloney, 50 Executive Park South, Suite 5015, Atlanta, GA 30329. The submission is non-returnable and should include the artist's name, address, contact number, age, and name of the family child care or center. For questions, contact Sharon Maloney at Sharon.Maloney@qualitycareforchildren.org or 404-479-4236.



## Training Calendar Spring 2008

| Event                                                                              | Date                                                                              | Phone        | Fee                                                                     | Time                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reach Towards the Stars: Introduction to Quality School Age Care (SAC 3 and SAC 6) | February 22, 2008                                                                 | 404-373-7414 | Pre-registration required; \$50 for non GSACA members; \$25 for members | 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.<br>Light refreshments provided.<br>Held in Fulton County call for location |
| NAFCC Support Group Meeting                                                        | March 8, 2008<br>March 29, 2008<br>April 26, 2008<br>May 10, 2008<br>May 31, 2008 | 404-479-4208 | Free                                                                    | 10:00 am–2:00 pm                                                                               |
| Registration Orientation Meeting                                                   | Feb.26, 2008<br>March 25, 2008<br>April 22, 2008<br>May 27, 2008                  | 404-479-4175 | Pre-registration required. No walk-ins; \$5;                            | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm                                                                              |
| Licensing Orientation Meeting                                                      | Feb. 28, 2008<br>March 11, 2008<br>April 15, 2008<br>May 13, 2008<br>May 29, 2008 | 404-657-5562 | Free; first 50 people only                                              | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm                                                                              |
| CPR / First Aid                                                                    | March 1, 2008<br>April 5, 2008<br>May 3, 2008                                     | 404-479-4230 | \$25                                                                    | 9:00am - 2:30pm                                                                                |
| Becoming a Child Care Professional (ECE 7)                                         | March. 1, 2008                                                                    | 404-479-4236 | Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three                     | 8:30 am – 10:30 am                                                                             |
| Building the Bridge to Positive Communication in Child Care (ECE-5)                | March. 1, 2008                                                                    | 404-479-4236 | Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three                     | 10:45am – 12:45 pm                                                                             |
| Sand and Water: It's not Just for Play (ECE 3)                                     | March 1, 2008                                                                     | 404-479-4236 | Pre-registration required: \$15; \$40 for all three                     | 1:15 pm – 3:15 pm                                                                              |
| BFTS General Information Session                                                   | March 4, 2008<br>May 6, 2008                                                      | 404-657-5562 | Free                                                                    | 10:00am-11:30am                                                                                |
| How to Start a Family Child Care                                                   | March 15, 2008<br>April 1, 2008<br>April 3, 2008<br>May 17, 2008                  | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration; \$25; \$35 walk in                                    | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm                                                                              |

## More Training Opportunities

| Event                                                                           | Date                          | Phone        | Fee                                                                              | Time                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Director's Roundtable:<br>Focused Monitoring Visits                             | March 26, 2008                | 404-479-4236 | FREE                                                                             | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.                  |
| Get Personal: Promoting<br>Positive Human<br>Relationships for School<br>Age    | March 28, 2008                | 404-373-7414 | Pre-registration<br>required; \$50 for non<br>GSACA members; \$25<br>for members | 9:00 -2:30 p.m.<br>Lunch provided. |
| How to Lose a Germ in<br>10 Seconds: Infectious<br>Disease Control (ECE 2)      | April 2, 2008<br>May 31, 2008 | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration<br>required: \$15; \$40 for<br>all three                        | 8:30 am-10:30 am                   |
| A Band-aid a Day Keeps<br>the Doctor Away: Health<br>and Safety (ECE 2)         | April 2, 2008<br>May 31, 2008 | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration<br>required: \$15; \$40 for<br>all three                        | 10:45am–12:45 pm                   |
| Child Abuse Detecting and<br>Reporting (ECE 2)                                  | April 2, 2008<br>May 31, 2008 | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration<br>required: \$15; \$40 for<br>all three                        | 1:15 pm to 3:15pm                  |
| Homes of Quality<br>Orientation                                                 | April 5, 2008                 | 404-657-5562 | Pre-registration<br>required; Free;                                              | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm                 |
| Standards of Care<br>Director's Orientation                                     | April 22, 2008                | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration<br>required; Free;                                              | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm                  |
| Church/Synagogue<br>Meeting: Building<br>Successful Staff<br>Relationships      | April 25, 2008                | 404-479-4182 | Pre-registration<br>required; \$10;                                              | 10:00 am 1:00pm<br>Lunch provided  |
| The ABC's of Effective<br>Child Care Leadership, 40<br>Hour Director's Training | May 1-2, 5-8, 2008            | 404-479-4236 | Pre-registration<br>required; \$50 due by<br>Apr 29. \$400 due<br>May 1.         | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm                  |
| Look Before You Leap<br>(ADM 1, 5)                                              | May 3, 2008                   | 404-479-4230 | Pre-registration<br>required; \$15;                                              | 10:00 am-1:00pm                    |

For additional training sessions visit: [www.qualitycareforchildren.org](http://www.qualitycareforchildren.org) or search [www.training.decal.state.ga.us](http://www.training.decal.state.ga.us) Click on the calendar search under Region 3 (Atlanta metro area).

## Provider Spotlight: Michelle Ginyard

Faced with the challenges of caring for a premature infant with respiratory complications, Michelle Ginyard found invaluable training, support and resources at QCC. Michelle, an informal child care provider in Douglas County, has been actively involved with QCC's child development and health and safety training programs. "I think Quality Care for Children is a good program. The program has helped me with the resources I needed," Michelle stated about the value of her experience with QCC.



Through a grant from QCC, Michelle obtained training in Child Development, First Aid, CPR, General Health & Safety procedures, a safety gate and first aid kit to improve the safety of her home. Michelle believes with QCC's assistance she is now better equipped to provide a healthier, safer environment for the children in her care. Michelle plans to continue her work with QCC as she strives to obtain her family child care provider license and further enhance the quality of the care she provides. In her words, "It is so good to know such a program exists!"

## Spring Activities

**Art: Caterpillars.** Place egg cartons cut in half lengthwise in the art center along with materials such as pipe cleaners, markers, and crayons. Allow children to make caterpillars. You may want to put a real picture of a caterpillar in the art center.

**Cooking: Lemonade:** 1 lemon, 2-3 Tablespoons sugar, 1 ¼ cup water, 2 ice cubes. During free choice time as a small group, have children squeeze lemon juice out of lemon. Help the children to measure and add sugar and water. Stir to dissolve the sugar. (Recipe is for one serving, adjust amounts for number of children in the class).

**Dramatic Play: Spring Cleaning:** small mops, brooms, feather dusters, and empty pails can be placed in the dramatic play area. A spray bottle filled with blue water, which can be used to wash designated windows, can also be provided.

**Gross Motor: Puddles:** Construct puddles out of tag board/cardboard/cardstock and cover with aluminum foil. Place the puddles on the floor. The children can

jump from puddle to puddle. A variation would be to do this activity outside, using chalk to mark puddles on the ground.

**Math: Insect Seriation:** Construct flannel board pieces representing a ladybug, an ant, a caterpillar, a butterfly, etc. The preschool children can arrange them on the flannel board from smallest to largest.

**Music: "Signs of Spring"** (sung to the tune of "Muffin Man").

Do you see a sign of spring,  
a sign of spring, a sign of spring?  
Do you see a sign of spring?  
Tell us what you see.

**Social Studies: Animal babies.** Collect pictures of animals and their young. Place the adult animal picture in one basket and the pictures of baby animals in another basket. The children can match adult animals to their offspring.



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## **Needed: Child Care Centers to Be Part of a Research Project**

Three researchers at UGA are interested in learning more about what teachers and children learn from some curriculum materials they have developed. They are looking for child care centers in the area to participate in a short-term research project. Centers who participate will be visited two or three times by researchers on a day you agree on. The researchers will observe teachers and children in two classrooms, ask teachers to fill out a form, and interview four children from each classroom. Centers who participate will receive three free hours of state-accepted training for all teachers in the selected classrooms. Each classroom will also receive a package of educational materials worth about \$200.

To be eligible, you need to be a full-day center-based program with at least 2 classrooms of 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds. Centers who have already attended a training on “Eat Healthy, Be Active”, who have used the curriculum, or who have used the “Eat Healthy, Be Active” resource kit of classroom materials are not eligible to be in the project.

If you're interested in being considered, or would like to hear more, please contact Dr. Diane Bales at [dbales@uga.edu](mailto:dbales@uga.edu) or 706-542-7566.