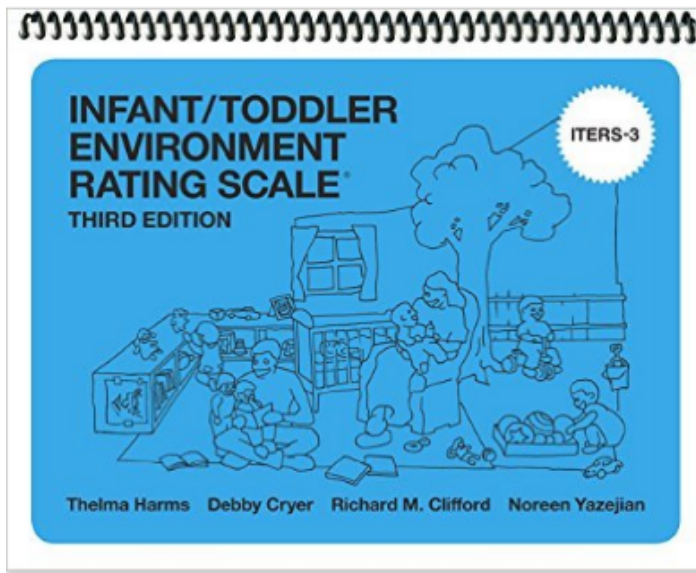




**August 2018**

## Quality Rated to Implement ITERS-3



### Quality Rated Transitioning to ITERS-3 Scale

Georgia's Quality Rated program is introducing the third edition of the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-3) to the Quality Rated Assessment process. ITERS-3 released by the Environmental Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) in 2017, is an updated version of the ITERS-R scale.

Beginning **January 1, 2019**, when programs submit their portfolio, they will only have the option of ITERS-3 for Quality Rated observations in infant and toddler classrooms.

As of July 1, 2018, programs submitting their portfolio have been given a choice between receiving an ITERS-R observation or an ITERS-3 observation in their infant and toddler classrooms.

This transitional period will continue through December 31, 2018. This 6-month transitional period will allow programs that

## Look What's New!



### New Quality Rated Signs

We're excited to share that every Quality Rated child care center in Georgia will be receiving a new display sign to announce with pride that they are **Quality Rated!** Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is providing the signs in partnership with the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning, through a generous grant from the United Way of Greater Atlanta with support from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation.

The new signs are:

- Brightly colored for high visibility

received technical assistance on ITERS-R to complete the process they started and receive an observation using ITERS-R, while still allowing programs to choose ITERS-3 as soon as they are ready.

ERSI describes the ITERS-3 as a revision that "introduces innovations in both the content and the administration of the scale, while still retaining continuity of the two primary characteristics of the ITERS-its global definition of quality and its reliance on observation as the primary source of information on which to base assessment of classroom quality."

Current literature, research, and best practices on child development, early childhood education, emergent classroom challenges, and health and safety were utilized to guide the revisions to the scale. The ITERS-3 places a greater emphasis on interactions and cognitive development, including language, mathematics, and science, and analysis of data from ITERS-R observations informed the rescaling of the instrument to allow programs to score higher on indicators that were commonly missed. Additionally, ITERS-3 incorporates many of the concepts seen in the previously released ECERS-3, in developmentally and age appropriate ways for infants and toddlers, which will aid programs in concentrating on consistent quality concepts from birth through preschool.

Quality Rated is excited about the addition of ITERS-3 and believes it is a beneficial tool for facilitating and measuring quality in infant/toddler classrooms throughout Georgia!

*To learn more about ITERS-3, please visit the ERSI website at [www.ersi.info](http://www.ersi.info).*

### Quality Rated Peer Support Network Ambassador Spotlight



#### Ambassador Spotlight: DiAnne Coggins

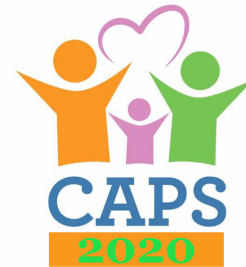
We're continuing to spotlight our Peer Support Network (PSN) Ambassadors across the state. This month, we're recognizing, DiAnne Coggins, a Quality Rated Peer Support Network Ambassador for Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLH) in Fulton County.

- Double sided
- Easy to set up; assembly takes less than 10 minutes
- Equipped with two built-in wheels for easy moving
- Weatherproof with a special design to resist high winds
- Large enough to ensure visibility (Frame Dimensions: 46"H x 30"W x 1.3"D; Base Dimensions: 29.5"W x 6.25"H x 24"D; Sign Insert: 28"W x 44"H)

The new Quality Rated signs will be shipped directly to your program between September 15, 2018, and December 31, 2018, in two separate cartons.

We ask that you check and update your DECAL KOALA account by **September 2, 2018**, to be sure that your mailing address, including your zip code, is correct.

### Quality Rated and CAPS 2020



**In December 2016, the DECAL Advisory Committee adopted the following: Quality Rated eligible providers must be star rated by 12/31/2020 in order to continue to receive Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.**

### Quality Rated Peer Support Network





DiAnne Coggins is the owner of The Learning Village, a family child care learning home. She opened her doors in 2010. In 2012, she became a National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accredited program. Her child care program became Quality Rated in 2013. In addition, she currently serves as the vice president for the Professional Family Childcare Alliance of Georgia (PFCCA).

Coggins supports family child care learning home providers in her area by hosting quarterly meetings to discuss relevant topics that will help strengthen programs such as hers. She said she is surrounded by a strong community of families. The parents attend a mandatory parent meeting twice a year and often provide her with new ideas. "It takes a village to raise a child," Coggins said.

Coggins said her parents are giving and always ready to lend her a helping hand. Her substitute teachers share her best practice goals and make themselves available for those occasions when she needs to leave her program for a few hours.

As for the PSN meeting she's facilitated that's made the most impact, Coggins said she enjoyed her meeting that discussed inclusion. During that meeting, the providers shared small accommodations they made for children in their programs and then discussed how making those modifications for families was a part of inclusion. She said the reflections from meeting were extremely positive and that the participants had takeaways they could use in their programs.



As a result of facilitating PSN meetings as an ambassador, one of Coggins providers who attended several PSN meetings made the decision to sign up to become Quality Rated. Coggins feels confident that between providing technical assistance, and along with encouragement and support from the providers who also attended the PSN meetings, that particular provider gained the confidence to complete the Quality Rated process.

Coggins said she appreciated the professional growth she has gained as a Peer Support Network Ambassador. As an ambassador, she said she is provided new information to pass along to other family child care professionals. She said at times, family child care learning home providers are very isolated, but that the meetings give her the opportunity to network with her colleagues.

## Are you interested in the Peer Support Network?

The Peer Support Network (PSN) was created by child care providers to share ideas, success stories and lessons learned during the Quality Rated experience.

The PSN is open to all programs who are interested in earning or increasing their Quality Rated star rating. Topics of discussion are guided by the interests and needs of the participants.

PSN Meetings are open to program owners, directors, and administrators.

Participants receive Bright from the Start ADM training hours.

Meetings are held in over 20 locations statewide.

To learn more about the Peer Support Network, email [qualityratedpsn@dec.al.gov](mailto:qualityratedpsn@dec.al.gov).

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## Update Your Profile on DECAL KOALA



### Update Your DECAL KOALA Profile

Over 20,000 people shop for child care and summer camps on DECAL's website every month.

Did you know Quality Rated child care programs can add pictures and additional information to their DECAL KOALA profiles that families see when they search for child care on DECAL's website?

You can add this information to your program's profile today. [Click here](#) to watch our webinar on how to update your profile.

"I enjoy teaching and sharing the knowledge I've gained to children as well as adults," Coggins said. "I am passionate about advocating for our children, parents and teachers."

For more information about the Peer Support Network or to put your name on a local PSN mailing list, contact Rachael Lee at [Rachael.Lee@decalfga.gov](mailto:Rachael.Lee@decalfga.gov) or call (404) 591-5663.

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### From the Review Desk: Quality Tips Standard 4.1



*To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star rating possible, we will, from time to time, offer helpful tips. We will further clarify or provide additional information on the five standards, that may help you in forming your responses, or in selecting the evidence you will upload.*

#### Quality Tips Standard 4.1: Intentional Teaching Practices

A simple, easily - understood definition of intentional is something done on purpose. Intentional teaching practices are just that - purposeful, deliberate, well thought out and planned. Being intentional in early care and education begins with your choice of a curriculum.

#### What is a curriculum?

Your curriculum is a written plan that guides the goals for learning and development of the children in your care. Every activity and experience you plan should be relevant and meaningful to your children. There are many research - based, nationally recognized curricula with broad use, but Quality Rated does not endorse one over another. You are free to choose, create, or design on your own, the curriculum you will use in your program. Following a curriculum does not, of course, mean that you cannot be flexible and change or adapt activities/experiences to meet children's individual needs or take a child-centered approach.

In **Standard 4.1** you are asked to do two things:

**1. Write a narrative description of your curriculum for Infants/Toddlers and Preschool.** It is important for you to include the following in your description:

### Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

Quality Rated  
Help Desk

**1-855-800-7747**

[qualityrated@decalfga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decalfga.gov)

- How your curriculum supports development across the five learning domains
- How your curriculum is culturally, linguistically, developmentally and age appropriate
- How your curriculum reflects what the State of Georgia has adopted as its' standards for early care and education; how it lines up with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)

## **2. Complete the two curriculum questionnaires**

- Check "Yes" or "No" to each question
- If your two descriptions indicate your curriculum is supportive of learning across the five learning domains, is age, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate, this should also be reflected in your responses to the questionnaires
- If you are not a Head Start/Early Head Start program, or do not have a classroom(s) within your program that serves Head Start/Early Head Start families, then you should check No to the question regarding the "Head Start Program Performance Standards"

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**Congratulations to the following  
Quality Rated Child Care Programs**

# CONGRATS

## TO THE NEWEST #QUALITYRATED PROGRAMS

JULY 2018

Golson Ernestine / Stone Mountain	★ ★ ★
Chattahoochee Education Center / Cusseta	★ ★ ★
Kids 'R' Kids #51 / Union City	★ ★ ★
Newnan Academy on Poplar Road / Sharpsburg	★ ★ ★
St.Paul/Gillespie - Selden Learning Center / Cordele	★ ★ ★
New Beginning International Preparatory Academy / Forest Park	★ ★ ★
Front Row Early Learning Academy / College Park	★ ★ ★
Lemon Tree Academy / Social Circle	★ ★ ★
Childcare Network #9 / Columbus	★ ★ ★
Prime Time - Shakerag / Duluth	★ ★ ★
Chambers Gloria A / Cochran	★ ★ ★
Lithia Toddle House Childcare Center Inc. / Lithia Springs	★ ★ ★
Mary's Little Lambs / Savannah	★ ★ ★
Sunbrook Academy at Woodstock / Woodstock	★ ★ ★



[Click Here to See July 2018 Quality Rated Programs](#)

# CONGRATS

TO THE PROGRAMS WHO  
INCREASED THEIR STAR RATING!

JULY 2018

Little Angels Learning Center LLC / Warner Robins	1 TO 2 STARS
C.O.R.E. Kids Academy / Duluth	2 TO 3 STARS
First Step Learning Center / Fort Valley	1 TO 2 STARS
Champions Christian Academy / Stone Mountain	1 TO 2 STARS
Generations Knowledge & Care Centers LLC / Columbus	1 TO 3 STARS
New Odyssey For Children / Buford	1 TO 3 STARS
Precious Possessions / Douglas	2 TO 3 STARS
Tomorrow's Child Learning & Development Center Inc. / Cartersville	1 TO 2 STARS
Williams Sheila M. / Folkston	1 TO 2 STARS
Abdus-Saboor Myra F / East Point	2 TO 3 STARS
Sharon's Tiny Tots / Sylvania	1 TO 3 STARS
Houson Road Day Care and Learning Center Inc. / Macon	1 TO 2 STARS
Building Foundations Learning Academy / Mableton	1 TO 2 STARS



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