



**December 2017**

## Scoring Technology Items in the ERS



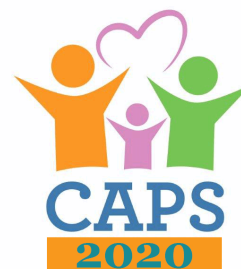
### Scoring Technology Items in the ERS

Since electronic media is ever evolving and changing at a rapid pace, it is sometimes hard to determine what counts as electronic media. New electronics are released continuously, and toys are now almost as realistic as the actual devices. Children's experiences using these varied devices and toys are similar and the screen time resulting from these devices impacts children's learning and health both positively and negatively.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has continued to emphasize that the priority for young children needs to remain on creative, unplugged play time, and that a balanced age-appropriate limit on screen time needs to be utilized to prevent negative effects to children's health and learning.

Given these recommendations and the changing landscape of electronic media options, the Environmental Rating Scale authors recently provided Quality Rated with updated guidance regarding scoring technology items in the environmental rating scales.

## CAPS 2020 and Quality Rated



**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 Bonus Package Deadline

**Quality Rated Bonus Packages will not be awarded after December 31, 2020.**

To be eligible for a bonus package, programs must meet all of the following guidelines:

Electronic media now includes any device used that has a screen with moving images, pictures, or print, including toys that are designed to emulate electronic devices. Examples of a few such toys that emulate electronic devices are pictured below. This updated guidance applies to:

**FCCERS-R Item 25:** Use of TV, video, and/or computer

**ECERS-3 Item 27:** Appropriate Use of Technology

**ITERS-R Item 23:** Use of TV, Video, and/or computer

The GA Notes for Clarification have been updated for FCCERS-R, E3, and ITERS-R to include this note, and they can be downloaded from the QR website at <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Shared/Help.aspx?v=ers>.

For more information on the impacts of screen time on young children, please visit the American Academy of Pediatrics website at:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Announces-New-Recommendations-for-Childrens-Media-Use.aspx>

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## Strengthening Families Training and the Quality Rated Required Reassessment Portfolio



*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.*

### Strengthening Families Training and the Quality Rated Required Reassessment Portfolio

This year in Quality Rated (QR) we have attempted to use this newsletter to address specific standards where the response from programs indicate confusion about what evidence should be uploaded, or what actions should be taken to meet the criteria. Questions regarding Strengthening Families (SF) training following the initial portfolio persist. In our last column for 2017, we will revisit these questions.

#### **Standard 3 - Family Engagement**

Family engagement is the shared responsibility of families, schools and communities to actively promote, support, and

1. Participate in Quality Rated by 6/30/18
2. Receive a one, two, or three star rating by 12/31/2020
3. Have received less than three bonus packages

### Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

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sustain family wellbeing, healthy child development, strong family child relationships and lifelong learning for all children and families. What role, you ask, does the early care and education community play in family engagement? Through ongoing daily contact with children and their families, early care and education (ECE) programs are perfectly positioned to forge relationships that can play a key role in helping families to support their children's early learning experiences and to ensure their health and safety.

In 2012, The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), in partnership with Strengthening Families Georgia, embedded elements of the Strengthening Families model of family engagement into its' Quality Rating Improvement System. *"Five Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families approach. Research studies support the common- sense notion that when Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. Research also shows that these protective factors build family strengths and a family environment that promotes optimal child and youth development."*[1]

In Standard 3.1 of Quality Rated, programs can earn points based on the percentage of staff completing a DECAL approved Strengthening Families (SF) training module (course). There are seven different modules in the Strengthening Families series.

Programs completing their online portfolio will find a direct link to the two online modules listed below in Standard 3 of the portfolio:

- Overview - Strengthening Families Georgia: An Effective Approach to Supporting Families and Communities
- **\*\*\*New\*\*\*** Strengthening Families Georgia Connections: The Foundation of Family Engagement

To locate available training opportunities for the five other courses, visit Georgia Training Approval at <https://www.training.dec.al.ga.gov/> and use the search box entering the keywords "strengthening families." You may contact the office directly at 866.425.0220. The modules are identified here.

- Strengthening Families Through Parental Resilience
- Strengthening Families Through Social Connections
- Strengthening Families Through Concrete Supports in Time of Need
- Strengthening Families Through Knowledge of Child Development
- Strengthening Families Through Promoting the Social and Emotional Competence of Children

There are other family engagement training opportunities available, but only the seven Strengthening Families training modules listed in this column can be used to meet the Standard 3 criteria. All training must be verified by the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS).

Remember, your participation in the Quality Rating system is voluntary and represents your commitment to ongoing, continuous quality improvement. While the Overview provides a basic understanding of the five factors, the additional

modules provide a more in-depth look at each individual factor and at family engagement in general.

### Your Required Reassessment

Three years after earning a star - rating, regardless of whether you earn 1, 2 or 3 stars, you must submit a new portfolio if you wish to retain your rating. A new assessment is required that includes both parts of the rating process - a portfolio review and an onsite observation. To meet the Strengthening Families criteria in a Required Reassessment, staff in the applying program must provide evidence of having completed a different SF module other than the one they received credit for in the initial portfolio. The training to be considered must have been completed **after** the program earned its rating.

For example, if Mrs. J completed the two - hour Overview module in 2014 when the initial portfolio was submitted, and a star rating earned, she must now complete a different module. Mrs J will not receive credit for taking the Overview training a second time.

Before completing your portfolio, look at your staff's professional learning records to help them determine which Strengthening Families module to complete to meet the Standard 3 criteria for a Required Reassessment. Any new staff that have never taken the Overview, should complete this module as it lays the foundation to understand the additional modules.

Building relationships with your families, supporting them in times of need, and educating them on the physical, emotional and social development of their children are truly "gifts that keep on giving."

Thank you for all that you do for Georgia's children and families.

[1] *Strengthening Families Georgia - Overview and Protective Factors Trainer Manual*

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### Key Concepts in the ECERS-3: Sanitary Procedures



### Sanitary Procedures




*In the ECERS-3 scale, programs are challenged to consider a wide range of topics that facilitate positive relationships and learning for preschoolers. For the next few months, we'll feature key concepts in the ECERS-3 scale.*

Sanitary procedures remain important in the ECERS-3, and procedures evaluated include hand washing, cleaning and sanitizing eating surfaces, toileting procedures, food service, and nap. Resources outlining the correct procedures for handwashing, changing diapers/pull ups, and table washing are available for download on the QR website at <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Shared/Help.aspx?v=ers>.

Programs preparing for an ECERS-3 observation assessment would benefit from paying close attention to these key concepts. Programs that implement these concepts as part of their daily practices typically score higher than programs that do not, and more importantly see greater increases in children's skills and understanding.

Take time to examine how you are doing on implementing these practices, and make improvements as needed.

## Congratulations to the following Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  QUALITY RATED<sup>SM</sup> child care programs!

Sprouting Knowledge Development Center, Augusta ★	★★ Big Blue Marble Academy - Medical District, Augusta
Developing Minds Academy II, Decatur ★	Augusta
Renee's Kid's World 2 LLC, Savannah ★★	★★★★ Tibitha A. Clem, Riverdale
Ashia C. Mitchell-Allen, Fairburn ★★	★★★★ Ekwutosi T. Ume, Lithonia
A Brighter Choice Learning Academy, Roberta ★★	★ First Baptist Church of Springfield Weekday Education, Springfield
La Petite Academy - Steeplechase, Powder Springs ★	★★★★ World of Hope Child Care Learning Center A, Grovetown
Ebenezer UMC Preschool, Conyers ★	★★★★ Lil' Angels Daycare and Kindergarten, Baxley
Angel's Child Care & Enrichment Center 1, Savannah ★★	★★★★ McDonald's Daycare, Oglethorpe
Easter Seals Child Development Center Guice Educare, Atlanta ★★	★ Dorothy L. Carr, Atlanta
Janet M. Goodwin, Sparks ★★	★★★★ Denise A. Addison, Lithonia
Quenitra W. Hilliard, Guyton ★★	★★★★ KIDazzle Child Care - LittleFlyers CDC, Atlanta
Rosa M. Hayes, Atlanta ★	★★★★ Camilla A. Mason, Carrollton
Happy Tyme Cottage Learning Center, Augusta ★	★ Eva Struway, Marietta
Laverne S. Hall ★★	★ Kids of Innocence Childcare and Learning Center, Decatur
Debbian J. Clark, Riverdale ★★	★ Angel's Childcare and Enrichment Center Inc. III, Savannah
Children's World Learning Center LLC, Hawkinsville ★★	

 *Congratulations to all of our*  
**QUALITY RATED™** *child care programs*  
*who've increased their star rating*  
*in November!*

- ★★ **ABC Childcare and Learning Center LLC, Covington (1 to 2 stars)**
- ★★★ **Alberta C. Watson, Valdosta (1 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **Kids 'R' Kids #23, Watkinsville (2 to 3 stars)**
- ★★ **Burke County Public Schools Early Head Start, Waynesboro (1 to 2 stars)**
- ★★★ **Little Geniuses Daycare, Thomson (2 to 3 stars)**

*Visit [qualityrated.org](http://qualityrated.org) to find*  
*Quality Rated child care programs in your area!*

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Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,  
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