



January 2018

Quality Rated and CAPS 2020



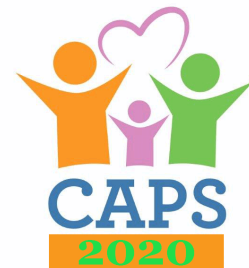
Quality Rated and CAPS 2020

Happy New Year! We are so excited for all that's happening with Quality Rated in 2018. We're happy to share that as of January 2018, there are more than 1,400 total star rated child care programs in Georgia. This is exciting, as it allows more families to have access to high-quality child care programs in the state.

As many of you may know, in December 2016, DECAL's Advisory Committee adopted the policy that **all Quality Rated eligible providers must be star rated by 12/31/2020 in order to continue to receiving Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.** The goal of this policy is to continue expanding access to high-quality child care programs to all families.

We're continuing to share this information with child care programs. We've done this through marketing efforts and hosting events throughout Georgia.

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 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:

Beginning in February, we are hosting our fourth round of **CAPS 2020/Quality Rated Q&A Sessions**. We are hosting sessions on Saturdays and weekdays. These meetings will review the supports available to help child care programs earn their Quality Rated star rating by the deadline.

Click the link below for a list of sessions and share this information with any eligible child care providers who accept CAPS, but aren't yet Quality Rated.

[Upcoming CAPS/Quality Rated 2020 Q&A Sessions](#)

Key Concepts in the ERS: Outside Play



Brrrr! Outside Play in Winter

As the famous Dean Martin song says, *"Baby, it's cold outside!"* Do we really have to go outside in this weather? Do children truly need to be outside playing in this weather? The answer is, it depends.

There are items in all Environmental Rating Scales that require that children go outside daily when weather permits. *"Weather permitting"* means that there is no public health warning due to temperatures that are too high or too low, or active precipitation such as rain or snow. If the weather permits outdoor play, but unavoidable health hazards are present outdoors, such as high levels of pollution, outdoor play is also not required. Arbitrary determinations of "cold" or "hot" based on adult levels of comfort are not acceptable reasons for keeping children indoors.

The ERS scales state that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for various temperatures so that outdoor time occurs almost every day of the year. This might require that the program have a change of clothes for when the grass is wet. It might require that the schedule be changed to allow children outdoor play in the afternoon if it will be very cold in the early morning or vice versa in the summer when it will be very hot later in the day. After bad weather, staff should check the outdoor area, dry off equipment, sweep away water, or block off puddles as needed, before children go out.

What are the benefits of outdoor play during winter?

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](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

- Sun exposure is an important source of Vitamin D for children since children often do not like the few foods that contain Vitamin D naturally. Vitamin D promotes calcium absorption, prevents brittle bones, and affects serotonin levels in the brain, which influence mood.
- Outdoor play helps strengthen children's immune system by giving them a break from indoor germs and bacteria, which are especially prevalent in the winter months.
- Outdoor play provides better opportunities for large muscle use and exercise, both of which are essential to healthy child development. Limiting outdoor play during winter can negatively impact children's muscle growth, sleep cycles, and ability to maintain a healthy body weight.
- Winter weather provides unique opportunities for children to develop new skills and for problem-solving as they navigate cold temperatures and wet outdoor environments.

For more information on the benefits of outdoor winter play, check out these articles:

- [Four Crucial Ways Playing Outdoors in Winter Benefits Children](#)
- [Bundle up and get outdoors: The health benefits of outdoor winter play for kids](#)

For a resource to help you determine what is too hot or too cold, download a copy of the Weather Watch chart from the QR website by clicking here: [Child Care Weather Watch Chart](#)

Congratulations to the following Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  QUALITY RATED child care programs!

Childtime Childcare #1117, Lawrenceville ★★	★★★★ First Steps Infant/Toddler Center, Vidalia
Lamb Shelter Day Care & Learning Center Inc., Albany ★	★★★★ Tift Child Development Center, Albany
	★ The Learning Center, Lake City
Lester's Learning Academy, Brunswick ★★	★ Victoria's Academy & Learning Center, Savannah
Kids 'R' Kids #44 GA, Lilburn ★	★ The Academy of Lovejoy, Hampton
Elaine G. Jamison, Ellenwood ★★	★★★★ Erica B. Davis, Stockbridge
Watch Me Grow Toddlerville, Stockbridge ★★	★ Mary Hall's Heavenly Angels Daycare
The Family Y Child Development Center, Augusta ★★	and Afterschool, Sandy Springs
Yolanda N. Robinson, College Park ★★★★★	★★★★ Stephanie A. Miller, Stone Mountain
Gladys C. Lee, Covington ★★	★ Peaceful Learning Center, Eatonton
Best Buddies at Oakland, Leesburg ★★	★★★★ Legacy Academy Suwanee Dam, Suwanee
Denise B. Boyett, Cuthbert ★★	★★★★ Atlanta School of Excellence, Atlanta
Quilla Academy, Stockbridge ★★★★★	★★★★ ABC Learning Center, Montezuma
The Learning Place, Macon ★★	★★★★ Prime Time Discovery - Goshen, Augusta
Kiddieland Corporation, Watkinsonville ★★★★★	★★★★ Prime Time Discovery - Gracewood, Augusta
YMCA Pryme Tyme West Chatham Elementary, Pooler ★	★ Sunrise Christian Academy, Riverdale

 **QUALITY RATED™** child care programs
who've increased their star rating
in December!

★★★ Wanda G. Earley, Riverdale (2 to 3 stars)

★★★ Sylvania Head Start, Sylvania (2 to 3 stars)

★★★ The Children's Village at the Crossroad, Richmond Hill (2 to 3 stars)

Visit qualityrated.org to find
Quality Rated child care programs in your area!

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