



March 2017

Quality Rated Marketing Campaign



Quality Rated Message Moving Through the State

You may have noticed many more Quality Rated billboards and posters throughout the state over the last few weeks. This is all a part of our Quality Rated Marketing Campaign's paid media strategy. We've placed thousands of ads -- radio, TV, digital and billboard, in February to reach families across Georgia. Some of the areas include metro Atlanta, Albany, Savannah, Macon, Dalton, Augusta and Waycross

More than 100 billboards were strategically placed in main thoroughfares of high-commuter routes as well as secondary roads with significant residential traffic in areas such as Cobb, Clayton, Douglas, Fulton and Paulding counties.

More than 2,000 radio ads will air during peak commuter timeframes both in the morning and evening. For television, more than 1,200 ads will stream Georgia airwaves throughout the day during early morning news timeslots and into the evening, targeting working families as well as mid-day to reach parents who may be at home with a newborn or young child.

Most ads will run through the end of April, marking one year of the Quality Rated campaign. Through our ad campaign, we hope families will recognize Quality Rated as their

Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

***** New*****

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

**Let's Get More
Quality Rated
Programs in
Georgia!**

Do you know any Georgia child care providers thinking about becoming Quality Rated?

All they have to do is visit qualityrated.decal.ga.gov, create an account and complete a brief application with demographic information about their program.

Once they have completed this information, they must

independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care, preschool and pre-K programs in the state.

Three Year Renewals



My Three Year Renewal is Coming Up...Now What?

A Three Year Renewal is an excellent opportunity to increase your star rating or show that you have sustained high quality as a 3-star rated program. To renew your rating, you will need to submit a new completed application and portfolio prior to your rating expiring and prepare for an ERS Assessment.

The application and portfolio can be accessed in your online Quality Rated program account up to 120 days before your rating expiration date. It is important to note that if the application and portfolio are not submitted before the expiration date of your current rating, that your Quality Rated star rating and CAPS tiered reimbursement will expire.

However, if you submit your portfolio and application prior to your rating anniversary date, you will retain the star rating until a new Quality Rated star rating is awarded. Once you have been notified that your portfolio has been accepted, an unannounced Environment Rating Scales (ERS) observation will be conducted within ninety (90) calendar days.

Following completion of the ERS observation, you will be notified within sixty (60) calendar days of your new star rating. Support is available to help you prepare for your renewal.

- To request technical assistance to guide you through the renewal process and assist in identifying quality improvements needed, directly contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R). Most CCR&Rs will assist you up to 12 months in advance of your renewal. Click this link to locate your local CCR&R: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx>.

submit their application for approval by checking the box at the bottom of the application.

We hope to see many more child care providers get started on the path to becoming **Quality Rated!**



Kids are
a mystery.
Finding quality
child care
doesn't have
to be.



Quality Rated Child Care is a tool that rates Georgia programs to help you make the choice that's right for you and your child—without the mystery.

Visit QualityRated.org
or Call 1-877-ALLGAKIDS
(1-877-255-4254)

- The Quality Rated website has many resources, updated notes for clarification, an electronic copy of the current program manual, and step-by-step guides to assist you in navigating the process.
<https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>
- As always, the Quality Rated Help Desk is available for any questions as you navigate through the process. The Help Desk can be reached Monday - Friday during regular business hours by phone at **1.855.800.7747** or by email at QualityRated@decal.ga.gov.

With these supports in place and the work you have done over the last three years to sustain and improve upon your quality, you have many resources at your fingertips to assist you with renewal. Take advantage of the support, and aim to achieve higher quality than your last assessment.

Each renewal is an opportunity to show you have either sustained a 3-star quality rating, which is a tremendous achievement, or to increase your rating, which shows growth and an invested commitment to continuous quality improvement. Both are wins for the children and families in your care.

Quality Rated: From the Review Desk

From the Review Desk: Training

In reviewing portfolios we frequently see responses that reflect either misinformation, misconceptions or "myths" regarding the intent of specific standards. To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star - rating possible, we will, from time to time, seek to dispel myths that often result in earning less points, and therefore, a lower overall portfolio score.

One area of **Quality Rated (QR)** that continues to generate questions and confusion is **professional learning and training**. Annual, required, recommended? Oh my!!!

Myth - Standard 1, Part B, 1.6

The training required for the Quality Rated portfolio also counts towards the 10 hours annual licensing requirement.

In Truth

Not Necessarily - let's consider the slight differences.

Child Care Services: You must meet the training requirements of Child Care Services (CCS) to remain in good standing and to maintain your license. This is first and foremost. The clock starts for first year staff on their "hire date" and ends at the first year anniversary of employment. The 10 hours required in the first year must include at least six (6) hours in the following topics:

- Four (4) clock hours of training in any of the following topics: disease control, cleanliness, basic hygiene, illness detection, illness disposition, and childhood injury control.
- Two (2) clock hours of training in identifying, reporting, and meeting the needs of abused, neglected, or deprived children.591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(b)

Twenty (20) hours of pre-service training is required for all Family Child Care Learning Home providers prior to being licensed.

Thereafter, the 10 hour requirement must be met **each calendar year - between January and December.**

In general, however, any state approved training taken within your calendar year (even if it is QR) should count towards your annual CCS training requirements.

Under current CCS rules, documentation or evidence of training must be maintained onsite. To remain current on all training requirements for CCS, visit: dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/Training.aspx.

Quality Rated: Quality Rated, in **Standard 1, Part B 1.6 Teacher Annual Training**, calculates the percentage of staff who have earned either 14, 16, or 18 hours of DECAL approved training in the **12 months prior to the date you hit the "submit" button.** For example, if you hit submit on March 13, 2017, all training verified through the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) since March 13, 2016 is pulled from that system. This means staff training to meet CCS requirements may or may not coincide with the training that appears in the portfolio. New hires may not have met their CCS requirements, but they are still included in calculating the percentages for QR. Based on the above example, after your program earns a Star - rating, if earned for example on June 1, 2017, you will be required to undergo another assessment in three years (in the months prior to June 1, 2020) to retain your rating. You will be required to complete and submit another portfolio. QR will still review the DECAL- approved training hours earned in the **12 months prior to the date you hit "submit."** If you hit the submit button on May 13, 2020, then your 12 months prior period begins on May 13, 2019.

Only training verified through our professional development system (GaPDS) at the time of submission counts toward QR requirements.

Standard 3

- Quality Rated is voluntary and only the "Strengthening Families Georgia" trainings are identified as specific courses for which you can earn points under **Standard 3 - Family Engagement 3.1 Overview of Five Protective Factors.** You will earn no points for 3.1 if at least 50% of your staff have not taken a DECAL approved course to meet family engagement requirements. Prior to the Request for Reassessment, make sure staff choose one of the following online or face-to-face courses to receive credit:

- *The Overview of Five Protective Factors*
- *One of the Five Strengthening Families Georgia Modules (there are 5 separate sessions in the SFG training series)*
- *Connections: The Foundation of Family Engagement*


For standalone school age programs, the required trainings in this area are different and are closely aligned with the Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Standards.

Lastly, for programs with **Georgia's Pre-K**, annual training requirements are based on the **current school year**. Georgia Pre-K identifies and provides the specific training it requires for new lead and assistant teachers, returning lead and assistant teachers and new project directors. This training may or may not fall within the 12 months of prior training QR will review.

Annual training periods differ by program and by timeframe, but DECAL approved training, verified through the GaPDS, will always be required to meet any program's annual requirements.

Please feel free to call or email the Quality Rated Help Desk should you need assistance by calling **855-800-7747** or be sending an email to qualityrated@decals.ga.gov.

Congratulations to the Newest Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  **QUALITY RATED™** child care programs!

- ★ Learning Time Child Development Center, Gwinnett
- ★★ Cynthia M. Pace, Chatham
- ★★ Amanda L. Welchel, Jackson
- ★★★ Nancy L. Santos, DeKalb
- ★★ Bertha B. Lawrence, DeKalb
- ★ Berean Christian Early Learning Academy, DeKalb
- ★★★ Preferred School Care at B.E. Usher Elementary, Fulton
- ★★★ Sheltering Arms - East Lake Village, DeKalb
- ★★ Sportz Center Academy, DeKalb
- ★ Giselle Learning Academy, DeKalb
- ★★ Leaders of Tomorrow Learning Center, Dougherty
- ★ Haygood Child Development Center, Fulton
- ★★ Kimberly D. Chesteen, Clayton
- ★★ Rose H. Curley, Lincoln
- ★★ Serafina Wright, Chathan
- ★ JahcINETTE A. Dolphin
- ★★★ Candler County Head Start, Candler
- ★ Sweet Peas Day Care, Albany
- ★ Apec Learning Center, Fulton
- ★★ McCullough's Creative Child Care, DeKalb
- ★★ Peachtree Academy - East, Rockdale
- ★ Loving Arms Child Development Center, Fulton
- ★ Na-Na's Day Care Center, Inc, DeKalb

 Congratulations to Denise Green, one of our **QUALITY RATED™** child care programs who increased her star rating in February!!!

★★ Denise Green, Dougherty (1 to 2 star)

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

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
Suite 670, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by danielle.williams@dec.al.ga.gov in collaboration with



Try it free today