



May 2018

CAPS Family Fee Changes for Quality Rated Providers

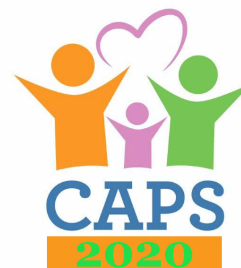


Family Fee Changes

To better support families and to meet 2014 Child Care and Development Fund reauthorization requirements, The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is implementing significant changes to the family fee structure for families who receive CAPS scholarships.

The changes include a 15% discount to the family fee for families who choose a **Quality Rated** provider, a change to the way the family fee is dispersed for families with multiple children in care, and simplification of the family fee calculation. The highlights of these changes are outlined below.

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:

15% Quality Rated discount-in effect July 2018

- Families who receive CAPS scholarships and who are enrolled at a 1-, 2-, or 3-star Quality Rated provider will receive a 15% discount on their family fee.
- The discount is an incentive for families to choose Quality Rated providers.
- The cost for this discount will not impact tiered reimbursement rates for providers because DECAL will pay the difference.

Revised family fee assessment for families with multiple children in care-in effect July 2018

- Previously, when a family fee was assessed for a family with multiple children, the fee was applied to the youngest child's certificate first, and if not covered by that amount, was applied to the next child's certificate, and so on.
- Under the new assessment, the family fee will be evenly divided among the scholarship certificates for all of a family's children in care.
- This will support families in selecting the best care for their individual children and will ensure the Quality Rated discount can only apply to children in care at Quality Rated providers.

Simplified family fee calculation-in effect September 2018

- The previous family fee calculation was inconsistent and may have been a barrier for families attempting to access higher quality care.
- The new family fee calculation is simplified and better aligns with federal requirements (affordable, not based on cost of care, uses sliding fee scale, based on income and family size).
- The new calculation is based on family income and the federal poverty level rates (FPL). FPL is based on family income and family size. Therefore, the number of children in care does not need to be factored into the calculation.
- The simplified rates are as follows:
 - Less than 10% of FPL: No Fee
 - Between 10% and 50% of FPL: 7% of family income
 - Between 50% and 100% of FPL: 11% of family income
 - Greater than 100% of FPL: 11% of family income
 - Family fee is still waived for the same CAPS priority groups as before (i.e. children in foster care), and DECAL will still pay the full rate of care for children in foster care and for children who have special needs.

So that existing CAPS families can only stand to benefit from this change, the family fee will be calculated using both the old and new calculation methods and they will be issued whichever fee is lower. For all new families, the new family fee calculation will be applied.

Update Your Profile on DECAL KOALA

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

**Quality Rated
Peer Support
Network**



**Registration is now open
for the June Peer Support
Network meetings.**

Register for the meeting by visiting: gapds.decal.ga.gov
Search for "Peer Support Network-June 2018."

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.

Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)



[Environment Rating
Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

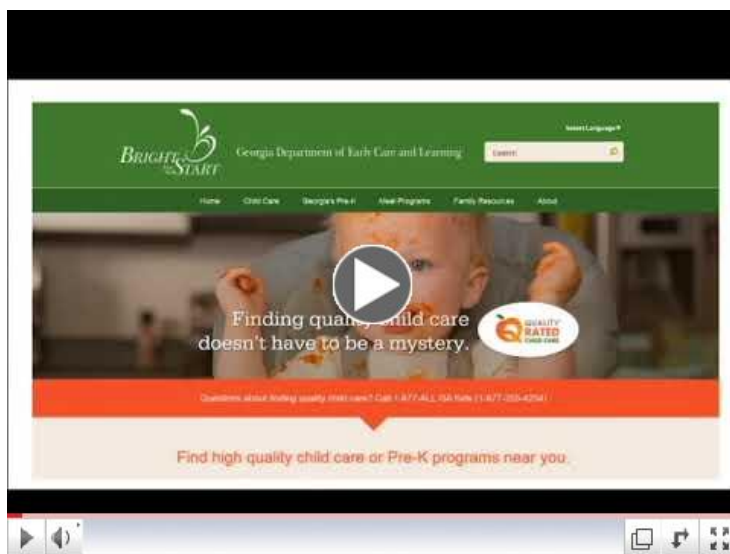
[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

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.

If you'd like every slot in your child care program to be full this summer, simply updating your information in your DECAL KOALA account could help.



How to Update Your DECAL KOALA Profile

We've recorded a short webinar to help you learn how to put your program's best foot forward online. Click [here](#) to watch our webinar on how to update your profile.

The Why: Conversations with a Preschooler



The Why: Conversations with a Preschooler

*by Bridget Ratajczak, Child Development Specialist, and
Margrett Stephens, Quality Rated Training and TA
Coordinator*

One of the main characteristics of preschoolers is that they are inquisitive. They love to ask, "Why?" The years from three to five are times of exploration, discovery and action. In our last discussion of our series, "The Why," we'd like to address conversing with preschoolers and how we can harness their inquisitive nature and expand their language at the same time.

Children love to talk; sharing their thoughts, ideas, concerns and questions about their life. Caregivers can share their journey of exploration and discovery by offering a listening ear and a rich vocabulary that will help children on their way. When we engage children in rich conversations, we are helping to build the foundation for their future reading, writing and social skills. We are teaching them that what they say is important and their input into the learning environment is valuable.

TALK

TALK is a four-part strategy developed by The Cox Campus Read Right from the Start program through the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School. TALK is an acronym that encourages caregivers to Tune-In by observing what the child is doing or saying, Ask Open-Ended Questions, Lift Language and Keep Conversations Going.

Tune in...we all like to be heard, but it takes intentional effort to truly listen to what children are saying. When we tune in, we offer a listening ear so that we can make a connection while joining in their conversation.

By asking open-ended questions that draw out the child's thinking and offering additional information we increase the vocabulary the child is using.

We can also lift their language to the next level by expanding on what they are saying, offering more complex words, information or sentences.

David Dickinson, a literacy scholar, suggests that we, "Strive for Five." This means that we strive to have five back-and-forth interactions with a child or group of children by asking questions. This helps to expand their language and ideas or even offer new ideas.

Here is an example of one teacher who used the TALK strategy to successfully converse, expand language and increase learning of the children in her classroom.

A Personal Perspective: Change One Word

I once asked a teacher to help the children expand their language during a teacher directed art project. We picked one of the materials she was going to use, glue. I suggested she come up with another word for glue to use that would help children expand language. (Tune In - children were at play with the materials)

After a couple of tries we settled on adhesive. When she used this word with the small group she explained that an adhesive was something that made two things stick together. A young boy piped in "Oh like tape" the teacher responded, "That's right! What else?" (Ask questions)

Within a short time the conversation had expanded (Listen) past the simple art the children were doing and included a number of sticky things including gum, sticky notes and mom's oatmeal that dad says sticks to your ribs. (Keep it Going) It is amazing where children will take you when you just change one word... *Sally Rich - CCR&R Technical Assistant*

Assessing Quality

This interchange between the caregiver and the children was rich in language use, which is an important marker of quality. [The Environmental Rating Scales](#) used by Georgia to assess quality in child care environments has many indicators focused on language use.

Language rich homes and child care environments provide children with the skills to comprehend and decode the meaning of words and ideas.

The ongoing interchange of ideas and thoughts between a child and adults or their peers empowers children to use and develop their language, which is a critical foundation to reading. The Cox Campus Read Right from the Start program offers free, online training at www.readrightfromthestart.org.

Continuing to Monitor Development

Understanding the developmentally appropriate practices that caregivers use when interacting with children creates an environment where they thrive. It also gives a foundation for success in life.

The tools we use to assess the quality of care in Georgia are based on sound developmental practices, helping a caregiver understand how to build quality in a classroom through interactions with the children in their care.

DECAL provides early childhood professionals with free training and free materials on monitoring the development of children in their care. Visit our [website](#) to find links to the training and how to order the materials.

From the Review Desk: Q Tips Standard 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.

Q Tips Standard 1

Standard 1 - Part A, Program Administrator Qualifications and Professional Learning

- Enter the number of staff and administrators in the boxes located above the list of staff members
- In general, administrator refers to program directors, assistant directors, and in some instances, education/curriculum coordinators.
- "Administrator" does not apply to staff whose title in the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) is Center Support.
- Remember, administrators cannot perform dual roles; they cannot be assigned to a classroom for any given period during the hours of operations.
- Part A is not reviewed if any staff member included is also a classroom teacher.
- The exceptions to the above (dual roles) are directors of small programs that under the old system may have been a group care provider, family day care home directors, and directors of school - age programs.
- If an administrator(s) does not have a Career Level of at least 7, they must meet all the minimum criteria: career level of 4 - 6, five years of program management experience, and evidence of having completed a state approved 40 Hour Directors Course or an equivalent.
- Professional Learning Plans (PLPs) for administrators must include at least six hours of training in an ADM Competency area(s).
- Training must be in either family engagement, cultural responsiveness, inclusion, support for dual language learners, or in the implementation of the GELDS to earn points.

Standard 1 - Part B, Staff Qualifications and Professional Learning

- Make sure all staff are registered in the GaPDS and have a Career Level.
- Former family providers, now in a center, will need to change their title in the GaPDS to that of lead or assistant teacher if they are in the classroom.
- Staff PLPs should include training with ECE Competency areas in one of the topics identified above for administrators.

Note: Look for further guidance and direction using the new Workforce Knowledge and Competencies in a future edition.

Please feel free to contact the Quality Rated Help Desk at 855-800-7747 or at qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov should you need assistance.

Congratulations to the following Quality Rated Child Care Programs



QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

Wee-Kare Daycare & Preschool Inc., Albany ★★
 APEC After School Enrichment @ Gullatt ★★
 Prime Time Discovery - Garrett ★★
 Walk Leap Grow Early Learning Center ★★
 Vanessa M. Goodman, Hephzibah ★★
 April M. Davenport, Hiwassee ★★
 KinderCare Learning Center #409, Marietta ★★
 Tender Years Learning Center #16, Thomaston ★★
 Savannah Christian Daycare Preschool, Savannah ★★
 JonEri's Christian Academy, Decatur ★★
 APEC After School Enrichment @ Oakley, Union City ★★
 Darlene W. Turner, Savannah ★★
 Akers Academy (Cumming), Cumming ★★
 Love and Grace Christian Academy, Decatur ★★
 APEC After School Enrichment @ Seaborn Lee, College Park ★★
 Deloris M. Wratee, Hephzibah ★★
 Visionary Learning Academy, Atlanta ★★
 Childtime Childcare #1112, Lithonia ★★
 Brooks County Head Start Center, Quitman ★★
 Prime Time - Lake Windward, Alpharetta ★★
 Preferred School Care at Deerwood Academy, Atlanta ★★
 Safe Haven YEP @ Cliftondale Elementary, College Park ★★
 Paulding Preparatory Academy, Dallas ★★
 Discovery Point #5, Duluth ★★



QUALITY RATED

★★ Treasure's Academy, Rock Spring (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★★ Lighthouse Early Start Academy One, Vidalia (2 to 3 stars)
 ★★ Home '2' Childcare and Development Center, Valdosta (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★ Discovery Point #45, Lawrenceville (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★ Rockmart Head Start, Rockmart (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★ Stewart County Head Start, Lumpkin (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★ Lifespring Childcare Center, Moultrie (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★★ Rollins Child Development Center, Cartersville (2 to 3 stars)
 ★★ Teachable Moments, LaGrange (1 to 2 stars)
 ★★★ Greater Expectations Early Child Development and Learning Center, Hinesville (2 to 3 stars)
 ★★ YMCA PrimeTime at Pine Grove Elementary, Valdosta (2 to 3 stars)

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

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