

Georgia Association on Young Children

Birth Through Five Certification in Georgia

Advancing Careers Stats at a Glance

June 1, 2007–April 30, 2008

- 862 Phone Calls Requesting Information on Professional Development
- 37,818 Visits to the Advancing Careers Website
- 9,586 Direct Contacts by Advancing Careers Staff with Georgia's Childhood Care and Education Professionals
- 19,451 Professional Development Publications Distributed

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SAVE THE DATE!
The 42nd Annual GAYC Conference is just around the corner!



October 10-11, 2008

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) approved in 2007 a new area of certification in Georgia for individuals working with children ages birth through five. The new area of certification joins other levels such as: Early Childhood (Pre-Kindergarten – 5th Grade), Middle Grades (4th-8th) and Secondary Education (6th-12th). The new certification follows the standards set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the standards for initial early childhood programs as set forth by the Council for Exceptional Children. Colleges are now in the process of developing programs of study that meet PSC certification standards.

Why is it important?

With increasing numbers of young children in child care (birth-5), in addition to new research on early brain development, attachment, and an emphasis on school readiness for Head Start and Pre-K, it is important to now offer degree programs that target the early years. A great deal of research also indicates that better qualified teachers leads to higher quality care, higher retention rates and improved outcomes for low income and minority children. More qualifications also mean enhanced knowledge, skills and earning potential for teachers.

What is it?

The new Birth through Five (B-5) degree and teacher certification program is a four-year Bachelor's Degree. Students who complete the required coursework in a PSC approved program can also be recommended for certification by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to teach children ages birth through five. The degree programs will consist of a combination of coursework and field experiences and are designed to support the development of the whole child inclusive of special needs.

How do I enroll?

There are several different routes you could take depending on your education. One route would be to graduate from high school and attend a college that offers the Birth through Five Program. If you are pursuing a two-year degree, you could transfer to a four-year college who offered the program. If you are currently pursuing a degree at a technical college,

you could also transfer to a four-year school depending on the courses you have taken and the agreement between the two schools. There are various articulation agreements that exist with the Technical College System of Georgia and the Board of Regents as well as with other private colleges and universities. An articulation agreement is an officially approved agreement between two or more institutions to accept courses.

What if I am already a certified teacher?

If you are currently certified by the PSC to teach grades P-5 you may add a B-5 endorsement to your current teaching certificate. Endorsements are certificate fields that supplement another teaching, service, or leadership certificate. Adding a B-5 Endorsement would require enrolling in an approved endorsement program made up of 3 college courses. Currently, there are no approved endorsement programs, although Albany State University and the University of West Georgia have expressed interest in developing endorsement programs.

Who offers the Birth through Five Degree and Teacher Certification?

Universities can offer a degree without PSC approval but cannot recommend candidates for certification by the PSC to teach without going through a comprehensive and stringent program approval process from the PSC. Currently, Mercer University is the only institution that has completed the approval process and is awaiting an official vote by the PSC. Gainesville State College is in the final stages of the PSC approval process. The following schools are in various stages of developing B-5 programs: Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Paine College, the University of Georgia, and Valdosta State University.

For more information, contact your local college, the PSC at www.gapsc.com or Advancing Careers at 1-888-405-2238.

Appreciation is expressed to Mercer University and the Professional Standards Commission for assistance with this article.

UPDATE: Bright from the Start Credential Requirements for Pre-K Assistant Teachers

In January 2008, Bright from the Start released an update on the CDA Credential requirement for Pre-K assistant teachers. To ensure that Georgia's Pre-K Program continues to offer quality preschool education and follows national research and trends, Bright from the Start will begin implementing changes in the credential requirement for Assistant Teachers. Beginning with the 2008 – 2009 school year, Georgia's Pre-K Program will require Assistant Teachers to hold a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher. To assist providers in meeting the new credential requirements, Bright from the Start has created a model to phase-in the policy over a three-year period:

Any ONE of the credentials/degrees listed below will meet the new Georgia Pre-K Program Assistant Teacher credential requirement.

- Valid Child Development Associate (CDA) credential (issued by the Council for Professional Recognition)
- TCC (Technical Certificate of Credit) in Early Childhood Education
- TCD (Technical College Diploma) in Early Childhood Education
- AA, AAS, AAT (Associate Degree) in Early Childhood Education
- Valid Paraprofessional Certificate (issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission)

New hires for the 2008 – 2009 school year will be required to hold a Child Development Associate (CDA) or higher credential or be eligible for a waiver at the time of application for employment. To qualify for a waiver, a new applicant must be currently in the process of obtaining

an appropriate ECE credential or degree.

Returning Pre-K Assistant Teachers, who do not currently hold any of the above credentials/degrees, will **NOT** be required to apply for a waiver. Bright from the Start will allow current Assistant Teachers to enroll in eligible programs of study leading to the award of one of the above ECE credentials or degree. All Pre-K Assistant Teachers must have earned a CDA or higher degree by the 2010-2011 school year.

Time Line for Meeting Georgia Pre-K Program Assistant Teacher Credential Requirements:

2008 – 2009	New credential requirement in place Returning Assistant Teacher must begin pursuing new credential. New assistant teacher hires must have credential or an approved waiver from BFTS.
2009 – 2010	Continue pursuing new credential
2010 – 2011	All Assistant Teachers must meet the required credential level by the end of the school year.

*Source: Bright from the Start: Department of Early Care and Learning
In a statement released 1/19/2008*

Check It Out: Updates to the Advancing Careers Website

If you log on to the Advancing Careers website (located at www.gayconline.org), you may notice something different. Recently, the website was completely updated with all of the latest information related to professional development in Georgia. You will see more information and resources directly related to the professional development needs of directors, providers, and trainers.

For Directors/Administrators...

Are you looking for training opportunities for you and your staff? Do you need to find resources to help you or your staff go back to school? Learn about the training requirements for directors in Georgia and where you can go to locate Bright from the Start approved trainings. We also have NEW resources for you to use when you are interviewing potential teachers. Visit the "Print Media" page and download a copy of "Typical Interview Questions To Ask" to help you hire the most qualified staff.

For Providers...

Do you need to obtain your CDA to meet Bright from the Start requirements for Pre-K assistant teachers? Do you have an associate's degree and want to go on to become a certified teacher? Do you need help locating a program of study and financial aid to go back to school? Visit the "Furthering Your Education" page to find answers to frequently asked questions, information on finding money to go back to school, and a glossary of terms to help you navigate through the process of going back to school. You can also find real-life success stories of people just like you who have gone back to school and obtained the credentials and degrees that set them on

the career path of their dreams.

For Trainers...

Are you a Bright from the Start approved trainer or are you interested in becoming one? Do you need to take a Training for Trainers (TFT) course to help meet trainer requirements? Are you just looking for trainer supports or networking opportunities to meet with other trainers? Visit the "Info for Trainers" page to see TFT Part I, II, and 10-Hour Refresher training dates for the next THREE YEARS and download registration information. Access the latest news on trainer requirements from the Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System Training Approval Office by directly linking to their website.

For Everyone...

Download the Professional Development Competencies Self-Assessment Tool for early childhood providers, school age providers and administrators to help you identify content areas where you are strong and areas where you may need to seek more training. We also want you to help us provide all the information you need. Take a short 10 question website evaluation survey and you can enter into a drawing to receive a FREE conference registration for the 2008 GAYC Conference that will be held October 10-11, 2008 at the Gwinnett Civic Center in Duluth, GA.



Supports for Trainers

GAYC, in collaboration with several other groups, including the Advancing Careers Advisory Committee, the Georgia Child Care Training Network and BFTS Training Approval has compiled a list of trainer supports in Georgia. These supports include training sources, networking opportunities, professional development resources, conferences and many others. If you would like more information on a specific resource or need information on becoming a trainer, contact Advancing Careers at 1-888-405-2238 or email advancingcareers@gayc.xohost.com. If you know of other supports for trainers inside or outside of Georgia, please keep us informed.

Supports In Georgia

Organization	Services Offered	Website
Better Brains for Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better Brains for Babies TOT 	www.bbbgeorgia.org
Black Child Development Institute – Atlanta Affiliate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Age TOT for CCR&R staff 	www.bcdi-atl.org
Georgia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCR&R professional development staff GACCRRRA online training calendar 	www.gaccrra.org
Georgia Association on Young Children Advancing Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toll-free Advancing Careers Line Advancing Careers Trainer Library at GAYC Professional Development Institute for Trainers GAYC Trainer One-on-One Work Sessions Georgia Child Care Training Network GAYC Training for Trainers Part I (40hours) GAYC Training for Trainers 10-hour Refresher Course GAYC Training for Trainers Part II (20 hours) GAYC Pre-Conference and Trainer Track CDA Advisor Training at the GAYC Conference 	www.gayconline.org
Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainer/Training Approval Competencies for Trainers Trainer Orientation Trainer Newsletter Training Calendar Professional Development Registry 	www.training.decal.state.ga.us
Georgia's Public and Private Colleges and Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Learning Courses 	www.gacollege411.org
Georgia School Age Care Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOT for School Age (upon request) 	www.gsaca.com
Georgia Training Institute (GTI) at Sheltering Arms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTI Training for Trainers Part I (40 hours) The Family Development Credential Instructor Institute (24 hours) 	www.shelteringarmsforkids.com
Kids 'R' Kids International, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Abuse TOT 	www.kidsrkids.com
Prevent Child Abuse GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop It Now! Georgia Training Institute PCA Georgia's Annual Symposium Strengthening Families 	www.preventchildabusega.org
Quality Assist, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Art of Technical Assistance Training 	www.qassist.com
Smart Start Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get Ready to Read TOT 	www.smartstartga.org
Technical College System of Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Learning Courses 	www.technicalcollegesystemofgeorgia.org
Toastmasters of Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences Training Institutes on Improving Public Speaking Skills 	www.gatoastmasters.org

The Advancing Careers project is funded in part by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning using the federal Child Care and Development Funds and by GAYC Training for Trainer registration fees.

The Georgia Association on Young Children is the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Southern Early Learning Association (SECA).





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2008 GAYC Conference...Just Around the Corner

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 42nd Annual GAYC Conference October 10-11, 2008 at the Gwinnett Civic Center in Duluth, GA. GAYC is proud to offer the following specialized tracks:

Directors/Administrators (15 sessions)

Infant/Toddler (8-10 sessions)

Curriculum—Literacy, Math, Art, Science (20 sessions)

School Age (10 sessions)

Trainers (10 sessions)

...and many others!

In addition, GAYC will hold an entire pre-conference day for Directors and one for Trainers on October 9, 2008. Watch for registration information as it is posted on our website in July at www.gayconline.org.

Other Professional Development Opportunities

Also visit www.training.decal.state.ga.us

NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, June 8-11, 2008, New Orleans, LA. For more information, visit www.naeyc.org.

GAYC NAEYC Accreditation Institute, June 16-20, 2008, Atlanta, GA. Scholarships Available. Call 404-222-0014 for registration information or visit www.gayconline.org

GAYC's Training for Trainers Part I "Building the Foundation", June 16-18, 2008, Athens, GA. Call 404-222-0014 for registration information or visit www.gayconline.org

GAYC's Training for Trainers Part I "Building the Foundation", July 28—August 1, 2008, Decatur, GA. Call 404-222-0014 for registration information or visit www.gayconline.org

GAYC Annual Conference, October 10-11, 2008, Duluth, GA. For more information, visit www.gayconline.org.