SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS: Early Childhood Care, Education, and Nutrition

Early childhood care and education is becoming an increasingly important issue with educators, philanthropists, policy makers, business leaders, and economists. While important, we know these issues are complex and it is often difficult to get a real ground-level perspective of the challenges and opportunities faced by Georgia child care providers and parents. For more than 35 years, Quality Care for Children (QCC) has worked to improve the quality of child care in Georgia and ensure that families can access and afford such care. Last year, QCC provided more than 26,000 hours of training, 16,000 hours of on-site consulting, $586,000 in quality-improvement grants, nutritious meals to 18,800 children, $1 million in child care scholarships for low-income families, and 28,000 free referrals for parents seeking child care. QCC has nearly 100 employees throughout its offices in Atlanta, Athens, and Cartersville.

QCC’s subject matter experts are always willing to provide information, insight, and data regarding early childhood care, education, and nutrition topics. Please contact Sonia Fuller at sfuller@bellsouth.net or 404-660-1261 if you are interested in speaking with one of Quality Care for Children’s experts.

Early Childhood Education Impact and Landscape in Georgia
Pam Tatum, President & CEO

- The near and long-term impact of high-quality child care
- Child care as a small business — balancing quality and affordability
- The economic impact of Georgia’s child care industry
- The high cost of child care and how it impacts working families and parents attending college
- The role of high-quality child care in ending two-generation poverty
- Child care subsidies and policies in Georgia
- What brain development research tells us about the importance of quality child care
- The problem of underground/unlicensed child care
- Challenges with child care deserts
- Meeting the needs of Georgia’s diverse population
- The economic/workforce/business case for investing in quality child care

Pam Tatum joined QCC in 1990 and stepped into her current role in 2004. Under her leadership, QCC has expanded its scope and impact to become one of the premier child care resource and referral agencies in the country. Pam has served on several committees focusing on early care and education, including Georgia’s Birth to 5 Legislative Study Committee and the United Way’s Early Learning Commission, and also led Mayor Shirley Franklin’s Taskforce on Early Care and Education. Pam has authored and published numerous early care and education op-eds and articles, and continues to be called on to address child care issues at the local and national level.

- more -
Child Care Programs & Services for Families in Georgia

*Pam Runkle, Executive Vice-President of Early Care & Learning*

- Early Head Start program
- Quality Care for Children’s Emergency Child Care program
- Georgia’s Quality Rated system
- Support for Latino child care providers and families
- Tools and resources for parents seeking high-quality child care
- Tools and resources for starting a child care program
- Coaching and training for child care programs
- License vs. non-license child care
- After school and summer care

Pam Runkle has been working to improve the quality of early education in Georgia for more than 29 years. Many years of hands-on experience in early care and education, including family child care and teaching in child care centers and school age settings, make Pam one of the top experts on these topics in Georgia. She has served on many early care and education taskforces and committees including the Quality Initiatives Advisory Committee and the Economic Impact Committee initiated by Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the State Leadership Team for Georgia Quest for Quality Inclusion, the Georgia Association for Young Children Asset Advisory Committee, Strengthening Families of Georgia Partnership Team, Get-Ready to Read Advisory Committee, and the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) committee. Pam is currently the president, and a former vice president, of the Georgia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and has served as a board member for the national organization, Child Care Aware of America. In 2005, she was the recipient of the Georgia Association for Young Children Advocate of the Year award.

Early Childhood Nutrition

*Reynaldo Green, Vice-President of Nutrition & Health*

- The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program that supports child care programs with nutritious meals
- The USDA Summer Food Program that provides nutritious meals to students who qualify for free or reduced price meals during the school year
- Nutrition training and support for child care cooks
- Georgia’s Farm to Early Care and Education Initiative
- Food insecurity in Georgia and its impact on young children
- The importance of proper nutrition for young children and developing brains

Reynaldo Green joined QCC in 2002 and managed the re-organization and expansion of QCC’s child care referral service to the entire state of Georgia as well as directed programs that included the statewide referral call center, emergency child care assistance program, services for Spanish/bilingual parents, and an inclusion program for children with special needs. Additionally, he led the agency through two consecutive Quality Assurance certifications. In his current position, Reynaldo manages the state-wide “Chefs for Young Children” training program for child care cooks, the USDA Child Care Food Program, and the USDA Summer Food Program sites. Reynaldo also helps manage the Kellogg Foundation’s Farm to Early Care and Education initiative in partnership with Georgia Organics and Georgia Voices.