

Specialty Trainer Designation

The Specialty Trainer designation is only for those individuals who do not meet the requirements for Trainer I, II, or III but do have qualifications in a specialty field applicable to the Bright from the Start training requirements for child care providers. ****Early Childhood Education is not considered a specialty area.**** Those who wish to provide training in early childhood education must qualify and apply for a Trainer I, II, or III designation.

Requirements

To be approved with a Specialty Trainer designation, you must submit documentation of having met the following requirements. More information about what types of documentation may be used to meet these requirements can be found on the Georgia Training Approval website at www.training.decal.ga.gov.

1. Completed Trainer Designation Application
2. Completed Trainer Orientation
3. Two (2) professional letters of recommendation
4. Bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by a CHEA or USDE recognized agency
5. Either a major/minor consistent with specialty area or a professional license or credential relevant to the specialty area
6. 40 clock hours of adult learning
7. 3 years of experience relevant to the specialty area as documented on a résumé

Specialty Areas

When you apply for the Specialty Trainer designation, you will need to specify **one** specialty area. The following are the specialty areas recognized by Georgia Training Approval:

Administrative Management of Programs
Foods and Nutrition
Health and Safety
School Age Care
Social Work, Mental Health, and Family Services
Special Needs and Inclusion

You may only provide trainings in the specialty area for which you are approved. If your degree or credentials indicate a specialty area more specific than those listed below, you will be approved only for the specific area in which you are qualified. For example, if you have are a licensed or registered healthcare provider, your approved specialty area will be “Health and Safety” and you will only be able to provide training in health and safety topics.

If you have any questions about which specialty area you qualify for, please contact Georgia Training Approval at (866) 425-0220 or TrainingApproval@georgiacenter.uga.edu.

To Apply

To apply for a Specialty Trainer designation, you must complete the Trainer Designation Application and submit all supporting documentation. **You must indicate the specialty area you are applying for on the application.** The application may be completed online at www.training.decal.ga.gov.

Specialty Areas

Definitions



The **Specialty Trainer Designation** is for individuals who wish to provide training for child care licensing credit *who do not meet the requirements for Trainer I, II or III* but who do have qualifications in a specialty field relevant to early child education. Below are definitions of some specialty fields:

Note: A degree in early childhood education (ECE) is *not* considered a specialty field. The Trainer I, II and III designations are for those who do have ECE degrees and wish to provide ECE training. Please see the Trainer Designation Matrix for complete requirements of all designations.

Specialty Areas:

Administrative Management of Programs

Specialty trainers in this area should have a degree in business management/administration, public administration, accounting, or management and leadership, and be experienced and knowledgeable about the business aspect of running a child care center or family child care learning home. Topics for training in this area are program administration, hiring and maintaining a staff, building permits, licensing, legal aspects of a child care center or family child care learning home, etc.

Foods and Nutrition

A degree in nutrition sciences, dietetics, or a degree and a license or certification in foods or nutrition with an extensive knowledge of food, meal planning, food handling and safety, and healthy lifestyle components of child care and family day care homes. Additionally, the trainer should have knowledge and experience with CACFP, SFSP and child health and wellness centers and family child care learning homes.

Health and Safety

This specialty area requires a completed degree and a certification or license in nursing, public health or health education. The health and safety trainer should understand the health and injury environment risks, Georgia's child care licensing rules and regulations, and emergency procedures necessary in childcare environments.

School Age Care

This specialty area requires a degree in elementary education, youth development, or other related degree and a credential that demonstrates an understanding of how children and youth develop. A School Age care trainer should have extensive knowledge and experience working in after school care environments.

Social Work, Mental Health and Family Services

This specialty area is primarily for those that have a degree in social work, counseling (children and/or families), or psychology and can demonstrate licensing or certification working in services for young children and families, child/family therapy and other social services including a thorough knowledge of services and regulations concerning mandated reporting.

Special Needs/Inclusion

This specialty area requires a degree with academic courses in special education (and/or inclusion), physical therapy, school psychology, occupational or behavior therapy. The special needs/inclusion trainer needs to have a good grasp of and experience in IDEIA services, early intervention, developmental delays, appropriate practices, screening and assessment, inclusion of children with developmental delays in natural environments and evidence based practice.