

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 and credentials indicate a specialty area more specific than those listed above, you will be approved only for the specific area in which you are qualified. For example, if you have a ServSafe certification, your approved specialty area will be “Foods and Nutrition – ServSafe only” and you will only be able to provide training in ServSafe 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: ECE is not considered a specialty field. The Trainer I, II and III designations are for those who wish to provide training in ECE (Please see Trainer Designation Matrix for the complete requirements of all designations)

Administrative Management of Programs

Specialty trainers in this area should have a business related degree, experienced and knowledgeable about the business aspect of running a child care center or family day care 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 home day care, etc.

Foods and Nutrition

A degree, 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 day care homes.

Health and Safety

This specialty area requires a degree or certification in a nursing, health or injury control for child care or family day care settings. The health and safety trainer should understand the health and injury environment risks, 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 that demonstrates an understanding of how children ages five and older develop. A School Age Care trainer should have extensive knowledge and experience in after school care environments.

Social Work, Mental Health and Family Services

This specialty area is primarily for those that have a background in social work, counseling (children and/or families), and can demonstrate the education preparation as well as experience working with young children and families, a knowledge of licensing rules and regulations and mandated reporting. These trainers primarily provide child abuse identification, reporting and prevention of abuse training for providers in child care centers and family day care

Special Needs/Inclusion

This specialty area requires a degree or academic courses in education – specifically children with special needs, inclusion, etc. The special needs/inclusion trainer needs to have a good grasp of and experience in IDEIA services, early intervention, developmental delays, development appropriate practices, screening and assessment, inclusion of children with developmental delays in natural environments and evidence based practice.