Professional Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia (PFCCAG) COVID 19 FCC Crisis Management Team

Resources for FCC Providers
Serving School-Age Children During the COVID 19 Pandemic

In July 2020, PFCCAG conducted a survey of FCC providers in anticipation of a surge in requests for care as schools reopened in the fall. Most respondents were willing to serve school-age children, but some indicated a need for more information on serving this age group and/or a refresher on serving mixed age groups of children. In response to these requests, PFCCAG compiled this resource list.

A. General

1. _National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE)_

   NCASE is a program of the federal Office of Child Care. NCASE's goal is to "ensure that school-age children in families of low income have increased access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning experiences that contribute to their overall development and academic achievement.
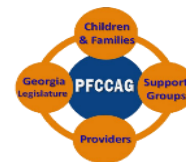   https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/national-center-afterschool-summer-enrichment

B. Developmental Characteristics

1. _Working with School-Age Children_ 2nd Edition. by Marlene A. Bumgarner & Mary Hoshiko Haughey, Pearson, 2017/

   A practical look at the roles of adults in children's lives outside of the classroom. Through the experiences of real people in a wide variety of settings and with a diversity of needs and insights, this book helps to define the role of professional child and youth workers in the lives of children and families. _Working with School-Age Children_ builds on a foundation of child development theory and provides an historical overview of the subject and an overview of school-age care in other parts of the world to help ground the work done by the people represented in the book. The book describes the issues children face in today's world and the attributes and skills critical for people who work with school-age children. Included are strategies for adult involvement, healthy and productive activities, and guidelines for developing and sustaining after school programs.

C. Materials and Equipment

D. Space/Room Arrangement

1. <u>Family Child Care Homes: Creative Spaces for Children to Learn</u>, Linda J Armstrong, 2012, Redleaf Press

2. <u>School-age Care Environment Rating Scale®, Updated Edition (SACERS-U).</u> The scale is described as "Designed to assess group-care programs for children of school age, 5 to 12 during their out-of-school time. The Scale consists of 47 items, including 6 supplementary items for programs enrolling children with disabilities. The SACERS-U™ Edition consists of 47 Items organized into 7 Subscales: Space and Furnishings, Health and Safety, Activities, Interactions, Program Structure, and Staff Development." Information is available at: https://ers.fpg.unc.edu/school-age-care-environment-rating-scale%C2%AE-updated-edition-sacers-u%E2%84%A2#:~:text=Scales-,School%2DAge%20Care%20Environment%20Rating%20Scale%C2%AE%2C%20Updated%20Edition%20(,programs%20enrolling%20children%20with%20disabilities

3. <u>Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Standards.</u> The Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Initiative (between Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and GUIDE). There are nine Elements, Programming & Youth Development, Linkages with the School Day, Environment & Climate, Relationships, Health & Well Being, Staffing & Professional Development, Organizational Practices, Evaluations & Outcomes, and, Family & Community Partnerships. NOTE. There are links at each Element to several useful resources. http://georgiaasyd.org/quality-standards/

E. Schedule and Activities

1. <u>Get Set for School</u> by Learning Without Tears. It is a pre-k curriculum to help children prepare for Kindergarten. Website states "To support online learning during the current school closures, we're providing free access to the Pre-K Interactive Teaching Tool to educators and families for 90 days." https://www.lwtears.com/gss

2. <u>Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN).</u> GSAN has useful information about serving school-age children in before and afterschool programs. https://www.lwtears.com/gss. An especially useful resource is the series of Summer Activity Guides at http://www.afterschoolga.org/resources/summeractivityguide/

3. <u>PNC Grow Up Great.</u> It has information in English and Spanish. https://www.pnc.com/en/about-pnc/corporate-responsibility/grow-up-great/lesson-center.html

F.   Schedule and Activities (continued)

A former provider recommended this site by saying:

"But when it's mixed groups with school-agers present, I often recommend the PNC curriculum that is on their "Grow Up Great" website. LOTS of themes and inquiry-based teaching. Includes book lists and extension suggestions. I think all of these activities can easily be adapted for toddlers and for school age as well. They are offered as "science and arts curriculum" but you will notice literacy as well."

She also said "In general, school age children are part of a mixed-age group they will be so proud and happy to be in a leader role. Of course they can't be the supervisor but they can read a book to a child (which will solidify their own reading fluency), they can help younger children follow a recipe and do some of the steps that younger children can't do and they can PLAN! I had a slew of after-school kids in my FCC and I would have them plan my activities for the following week. They are way better ideas then me, and they'd look forward to seeing "their ideas" implemented the very next week

"At this time, I am urging educators and parents to focus on practical (and fun) skills and not being so concerned about the academics. I notice that people are returning to gardening, bread baking, sewing, needle crafts and I believe this is a need to get "back to basic needs." Children are no different. What a wonderful opportunity we have to teach a whole generation of children some practical skills: Cooking, Gardening. Preserving food, sewing knitting/crocheting, paper folding, wood working. By simple googling the educators can find simple projects.
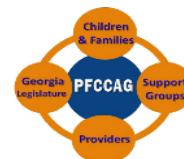
4. Makerspaces: Remaking Your Play and STEAM Early Learning Areas by Michelle Kay Compton and Robin Chappele Thompson (Redleaf Press)

5. Making Lemonade: Teaching Young Children to Think Optimistically by:Derry Koralek and Laura J. Colker (Redleaf Press)

G. General Information About Serving Mixed Age Groups

1. The Florida Family Child Care Home Association has a handout on serving Mixed age groups
https://familychildcare.org/resources/pdf/Benefits_of_Mixed_Age_Groups_PPP.pdf

2. Better Kid Care. Better Kid Care operated by Penn State Extension, is a distance education program to assist childcare professionals in obtaining research-based professional development. The distance education is accepted for PA Department of Public Welfare/Keystone STARS professional development requirements. Better Kid Care is also accepted by many states for licensing or quality rating requirements. Information about modules for family child care is at:
https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/family-child-care-providers
Information about a module on serving mixed age groups is at:
https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/lessons/fcc-mixed-ages

NOTE: The site has a map of the US; click on GA and you will see "To see a list of Better Kid Care approved lessons, search GA PDS for approved trainings, and type in Trainer: Claudia Mincemoyer *or* Christine Anthony"

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G. General Information About Serving Mixed Age Groups (continued)

3. Gee Whiz Education Family Child Care Curriculum offers a digital curriculum for FCC providers serving mixed age groups including school-agers. (Note: September 2020 plan has a special section for school-age children). The program includes a monthly teaching guide (planning grid, sample lesson plans organized by age groups, section for school-age activities, school readiness information, learning indicators, and supplemental instructions concerning books, songs, poems etc.),user guides on several subjects, and other information and support. Additional information is at: https://geewhizeducation.com/gee-whiz-education-catalog-2/.

4. The Creative Clubhouse, Havertown PA, list benefits in their July 2020 newsletter article *Learning Together: Benefits of a Mixed Age Classroom:*
https://www.creativeclubhouse.org/blog/2018/5/26/learning-together-benefits-of-a-mixed-age-classroom

5. Managing Mixed Age Groups in a Child Care Setting (Online Course) is a 5 clock hour/ .5 CEUS course available from Child Care Lounge: https://childcarelounge.com/products/managing-mixed-age-groups-in-a-child-care-setting   Course objectives are : Identify the benefits and challenges of multi-aged grouping, list ways to adapt daily practices and routines to meet the needs of children in differing age groups, utilize guidelines in choosing and adapting activities for mixed age groups, and Develop a project involving children in differing age groups.

6. The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care, Third Edition, 2017 is part of a comprehensive curriculum training package for FCC providers and available from Teaching Strategies. The Creative Curriculum is a three volume publication including Volume 1: The Foundation, Volume 2: Routines and Experiences, and Volume 3: Objectives for Learning & Development, Birth to Third Grade. The Creative Curriculum is built on the assumption providers serve a mixed age group and there is content throughout on serving school-age children.
https://teachingstrategies.com/markets/family-child-care/

H. School-age Children in a Mixed Age Group

1. Tracking School-Age Children in Family Child Care Settings (Master's Thesis), Skai Warren, California State University, Northridge. The publication is at: http://scholarworks.csun.edu/bitstream/handle/10211.3/205874/Warren-Skai-thesis-2018.pdf?sequence=1

2. School-Age Children in Regulated Family Child Care Settings. September 2007, US DHHS, Administration of Children and Families, Child Care Bureau https://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/13725/pdf

Created 9/7/20