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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Professional Development Registry Available for Early Childhood Professionals**

**ATLANTA, Ga., (July 15, 2010)** – An innovative resource developed especially for Early Care and Education Professionals by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is now available. The Professional Development Registry (PDR) is a state-of-the-art, research-based professional development system that will be offered to all of Georgia’s early childhood educators.

The PDR will benefit thousands of early care and education workers, directors and employers with a seamless credential verification process via links to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) and Bright from the Start’s Trainer Approval System. Available services include, verifying credentials, monitoring an individual’s career ladder, identifying completed coursework, obtaining a career level, tracking required training, and producing a resume with verified credentials.

“I am proud that our agency can offer early care educators the opportunity to be part of this cutting-edge system,” stated Bright from the Start Commissioner Holly A. Robinson. “It truly is a user friendly, one-stop shop for individuals to record and track their career information. This system will go a long way to ensure that Georgia’s children are receiving the highest levels of care and education.”

Individuals can easily join the confidential PDR system by completing three sections: identifying information, work history and educational background. Optional features include entering training sessions, credentials earned, as well as demographic factors.

**-more-**

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Some of the advantages of the Professional Development Registry include:

- The PDR provides individuals with step-by-step, easy to understand requirements to move up their career ladder to reach the highest educational and career level.
- The PDR provides employers with verified credential information on prospective and current employees to aid in hiring the best qualified person for the job.
- Once an early care and education professional is registered, the PDR will decrease the need to reproduce and mail hard copies of transcripts, certificates, and other supporting documentation to employers or other entities. An individual's professional development record is housed in one convenient, secure location and available online anytime.

To learn more about the PDR or to begin the application process, please visit <https://pdr.dec.al.ga.gov> or call 404-492-5853.

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).