



# Provider Newsletter

SUMMER 2023



## Provider Spotlight: Start Light Learning Academy

Start Light Learning Academy is a 3 Star, Quality Rated Program located in Acworth of Georgia (Northwest region). The owner has been providing child care services for 34 years. Inspired by the birth of her child, Dequanna, Princess Shenette Zackery, left a modeling career and decided to provide her child with the best care possible. Full-time care from her own mother! According to Princess, birth of Dequanna is what has inspired her to be where she is today; a successful owner of 6 child care programs in Georgia.

Princess has been working with Quality Care for Children for over 30 years, since the beginning of her child care journey. Princess is pleased with the support, training and technical assistance provided by Quality Care for Children and mentioned a special thank you to her Early Childhood Education Specialist, Jeanette Dructor, who supported her program in achieving a 3 Star rating this month! “Jeanette Dructor has been a tremendous help in achieving our 3 Star rating! We love Jeanette!

The biggest challenge Princess has as a child care owner is keeping amazing staff as well as maintaining high staff morale. She believes synergy is what keeps the momentum going. Some things she has done to increase this synergy and high staff morale are by providing her staff with a delicious lunch every Friday and she is not talking about fast food. She jokingly refers to the book “If you don’t feed the teachers, they will eat the children: Guide to Success for Administrators and teachers” by Neila A Connors. She also attributes networking through membership in the following organizations (NAEYC, NAFFC, GAEYC, GCCA) as key to keeping quality staff.

Princess has a personality that is larger than life itself. She dresses up for child care tours in a pink princess dress and roller skates which impress her parents and keeps them entertained. They absolutely love this unique side of Princess. Her uniqueness does not stop

there! Every single month she travels to different countries bringing back items to share with children and staff to add to diversity awareness. She calls this monthly Global Focus. This year she went to Puerto Rico in January, Paris, France in February and Dubai, United Arab Emirates in March, for example.

Princess is in the process of acquiring 13,000 sq foot building and opening her “dream child care facility” as well as starring in the TV show “Flip the child care”. She has endless energy and is very excited about these new developments! Princess is known locally as the “Childcare phoenix” since one of her programs burned a few years ago and she literally “rose from the ashes” and came out better, stronger and more determined than ever! Princess contributes to the child care field by writing books, Building a Child Care Empire: How to Reach Your Dreams Through Child Care, which provides a powerful, well-thought-out, and insightful guide on ‘making it’ in the child care industry. She also has a 2023 Planner developed and is currently working on her new book called “God, Family, Child Care.”