

Early Learning News

October, November, December 2024

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Take a Look Inside

This edition of *Early Learning News* may have a different style, but it continues to be filled with helpful, relevant information.

The calendar view of our monthly training classes is perforated for easy removal. This allows you to tear it out and share as needed.

The "Pass Along to Parents" page is also perforated. This is a wonderful resource to share with parents, and it's copyright-free!

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To be in your
children's memories
tomorrow,
you have to be in
their lives *today.*

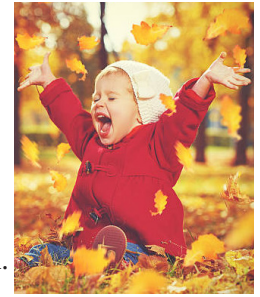
—Barbara Johnson

The Power of Play: Engaging Your Child Through Every Stage of Early Development

Play is much more than just fun for children; it's a vital part of their growth and learning. From birth to age three, children use play to explore the world around them, developing crucial cognitive, physical, social, and emotional skills.

Learning through Play

For young children, play is the primary way they learn. It allows them to use all their senses to understand their environment. Whether they're stacking blocks, imitating adult behaviors, or exploring new textures, each activity contributes to their understanding of the world. Play is often called the "work of childhood," and for good reason—it's how children experiment, discover, and learn.



The Role of Parents

Parents play a crucial role in their child's playtime. As a child's first and most important playmate, parents are uniquely positioned to foster learning and development. By actively engaging in play, parents help build their child's confidence, communication skills, and sense of self-worth. Simple interactions, like playing peek-a-boo or rolling a ball back and forth, can have significant developmental benefits.



Ensuring Safe and Supportive Play

As children grow, they become more mobile and curious, which means that a safe play environment is essential. Parents should provide just enough guidance to help their child explore and learn independently, allowing the child to experience both success and problem-solving opportunities.

Age-Specific Play Activities

- **Birth to 12 Months:** Play at this stage involves sensory exploration. Babies learn through activities like shaking a rattle, feeling different textures, and engaging in games like peek-a-boo.
- **12 to 24 Months:** As toddlers start to walk and develop fine motor skills, their play becomes more complex. Activities like stacking blocks, simple puzzles, and pretend play help them explore new skills.
- **24 to 36 Months:** Older toddlers engage in more imaginative play, often imitating adult behaviors and interacting with peers. This stage is crucial for developing social skills, language, and creativity.

Tips for Engaging in Play

To make the most of playtime, parents should focus on simple, open-ended toys that encourage creativity and physical activity. Avoid relying on electronic toys that claim to boost intelligence; instead, choose items that allow your child to explore, create, and interact with the world around them.



Play is an essential part of early childhood development, providing the foundation for learning and growth. By engaging in play with your child, you help them build the skills they need to navigate the world, fostering their development and strengthening your bond.



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Admin Basics

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS PRACTICES

October 15

**Director's Forum:
Strengthening Fiscal
Management for Childcare
Programs: Budgets, Projections
and Planning (Administration
Basics Orientation)**
9am- 12pm

**All You Need to Know
About TEACH
Scholarship Program
for the Early
Childhood Workforce**
11am-12pm

October 16

**Director's Forum:
Marketing Strategies
to Sustain a Quality
Program**
9am-10:30am

**Director's Forum:
Supervising Staff
through Effective and
Positive Practices**
10:30am-12:30pm

**Conquering Challenging
Conversations with
Parents and Caregivers**
6 to 8 pm

October 17

**Director's Forum:
Strengthening Business
Practices – Marketing
Your Program**
8:30am-10:30am

**DAP: "What's
That?"**
10:30am-12:30pm

October 18

**Alabama Quality STARS:
Lift Them Higher with
Quality Early Care and
Education**
9:30am-11:30am

October 23

**Alabama Pathways
Professional Development
Registry-PDR
Information**
10am-12pm

November 7

**Director's Forum:
Playground 102 -
Get Set: "What's It
Going to Look
Like?"**
9:30am-11:30 am



Scan now or
Register for each session @

www.grecs.org

November 8

**Taking a Trip from
Minimum Standards
to Performance
Standards**
9:30am-11:30 am

Get To Know Our Training Sites and Locations!

When Registering for training classes, please make note of the time & locations of the session. Classes are held in 7 counties - Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe & Washington.

Baldwin County

Daphne Public Library

Kids Plus CDC

Goodwill Community Center

The Learning Tree at "First Fairhope"

Coastal Alabama Community College, Bay Minette Campus

Country Day School

Clarke County

Jackson City Hall

Conecuh County

David Burt Agriculture Center

Future Achievers

532 S. Main St Evergreen, AL 36401

Escambia County

Coastal Alabama Community College

Flomaton Public Library

Monroe County

Monroe County Public Library

Patty Pat's Day care Center #2

Mobile County

GRECS Training Rooms -

3101 International Dr, Building 6

Washington County

Spot for Tots Child Care Center

Washington County Public Library



If you have any questions or need directions

Call us at
251-473-1060
or visit
www.greccs.org

CCDF Health and Safety Courses 2024

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in October, November and December 2024!

- **October 5: Super Saturday:** 3 Hour Health and Safety Training CCDF: 5, 7, 8; 9:00am-12:00pm; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
- **October 21: Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays (CTF);** 5:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile
- **October 22: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF:** 2, 6 (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL
- **October 23: Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF:** 4, 7; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile
- **October 24: Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF:** 1; 8:00am-9:00am; Mobile
- **October 24: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF:** 2 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile
- **October 24: Administration of Medication CCDF:** 3; 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile
- **October 24: A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF:** 4; 11:00am-12:00pm; Mobile
- **November 2: Super Saturday:** 4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 3, 4, 5; 8:30am-12:30pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL
- **November 4: Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF:** 5; 8:00am-9:00am; Mobile
- **November 4: Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF:** 6; 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile
- **November 4: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7;** 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile
- **November 4: Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF:** 8; 11:00am-12:00pm; Mobile
- **November 5: Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF:** 9; 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile
- **November 5: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF:** 11; 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile
- **November 13: Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT);** 5:30pm-7:30pm; Webinar
- **December 2: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF:** 7, 8; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL
- **December 4: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care;** 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile
- **December 9: First-Aid and CPR Training;** 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile



Highlighted Courses for Infant/Toddler Mental Health

Infant-toddler mental health is crucial because the earliest years of life lay the foundation for a child's emotional, social, and cognitive development. During this period, infants and toddlers form secure attachments, learn to regulate their emotions, and develop trust in their caregivers. Positive mental health in these early years promotes resilience, healthy relationships, and the ability to cope with stress later in life. Supporting mental health during infancy and toddlerhood is essential for ensuring that children grow into well-adjusted, emotionally stable adults.

Supporting Babies and Toddlers On Their Path to Resilience

Presented by: Victoria Bolton

Participants will discuss how experience of trauma for babies and toddlers can have a significant influence on their development. This session will also explore the concepts of risk and protective factors, as well as resilience. They will examine specific within-child and external protective factors and reflect on how to promote and strengthen each protective factor for babies and toddlers to foster their resilience. *CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Intermediate | 0.2 CEUs | 2 Hours*

October 3rd, 2024
6:30pm-8:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

Trauma-Responsive Care Strategies & Practices for Infants and Toddlers

Presented by: Victoria Bolton

Participants will explore in depth the importance of responsive and nurturing strategies and practices. They will explore how to create trauma-sensitive environments. And they will examine how play and other trauma-responsive practices and strategies can support babies and toddlers. *CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Intermediate | 0.2 CEUs | 2 Hours*

November 19th, 2024
6:00pm-8:00pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile



Getting Started

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe environments, nurturing interactions & developmentally appropriate experiences for the children in your care. This basic-level, 12-hour course is broken down into (3), four-hour segments. The training you receive will meet Alabama Department of Human Resources' 12-hour training requirement to work in child care.

You must attend all sessions to receive credit.

(Presenter: GRECS Staff; DHR: CD, CCPF, LD, QCCL, PDG, HSUP; Alabama Pathways: CGD, ICFC, LEE, HSN, PPD; CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8; CCDF: 6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20; Basic Training Level; 12 hours/1.2 CEUs; Appropriate for ALL Age Groups)

October 8-10, 2024 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

New Time!

Special Delivery Courses

Please Contact: Vicki Giles
251-473-1060
vgiles@grecs.org

We are offering special delivery courses for the following sessions:

- What is Your Piece: Professionalism
- Active Supervision of Children
- Guidance: Not Discipline
- Preparing for Emergencies

Please contact us for more details on how you can schedule a training or if there are other sessions you need!

October '24 TRAINING

Circle Time : What Every Childcare Provider Needs to Know October 1, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, COA, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, LD | Infant, Toddler, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This course was designed to provide early childhood caregivers with comprehensive knowledge and practical strategies to effectively implement Circle Time, fostering an engaging and educational environment for young children.

Supporting Babies and Toddlers On Their Path to Resilience October 3, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Participants will discuss how experience of trauma for babies and toddlers can have a significant influence on their development. This session will also explore the concepts of risk and protective factors, as well as resilience.

Super Saturday: 3 Hour Health and Safety Training CCDF: 5, 7, 8 October 5, 2024 | 9:00am-12:00pm 3 hrs

CCDF: 5, 7, 8 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Equip yourself with practical strategies and insights to excel in your role while safeguarding the well-being of those under your care.

Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF) October 7, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Intermediate | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Conflicts between young children are all too common. Learn some easy, effective strategies for responding to children's behavior and helping children learn important skills for resolving their own conflicts.

Getting Started 2024 (CTF)

October 8-10, 2024 | 8:30am-12:30pm 12 hrs/1.2 CEUs

CCDF: 6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC, LEE, HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 | DHR: CD, CCPE, LD, QCCL, PDG, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

See page 5 for more information. *You must attend all sessions to receive credit!*

A New Look at Play (CTF)

October 8, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Basic | Discovery Island Child Development Center Orange Beach, AL

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This session will discuss how and why play is important for children of all ages. Participants will understand and promote play based learning and how it supports developmentally appropriate practices.

Family Style Dining At Its Best!

October 8, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Family-style dining offers the opportunity for children to support language development and learn how to choose healthy foods in age-appropriate portions, and the social skills used during dining.

Getting Along with Others

October 10, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

The children in our preschool classrooms are just beginning to learn the complex skills of cooperating, sharing and working together. Let's explore some strategies to help them get along with others.

What Does All That Scribble-Scrabble Mean? (CTF)

October 12, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschoolers | Basic | Washington County Public Library- large training room 14102 St. Stephens Ave., Chatom, AL 36518

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This session will help participants understand that creativity is more than a product—it is a process. There are many stages of drawing and writing that develop through childhood.

Director's Forum: Strengthening Fiscal Management for Child Care Programs: Budgets, Projections and Planning (Administration Basics Orientation)

October 15, 2024 | 9:00am-12:00pm 3 hrs/0.3 CEUs

CCDF: 18, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 1, 5, 6 | DHR: AM, QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

The purpose of this training is to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of fiscal terms, concepts, and practices. It encourages providers to realize the importance of fiscal planning to the sustainability of their business operations.

All You Need to Know About TEACH Scholarship Program for the Early Childhood Workforce

October 15, 2024 | 11:00am-12:00pm 1 hr

CCDF: N/A | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Mariah Scarver, T.E.A.C.H. Director

The T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship program aims to improve the education, compensation, and retention of the early childhood workforce. This initiative provides scholarships to early childhood educators pursuing coursework in early childhood education or related fields.

Reading and Writing with Emerging Authors

October 15, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Advanced | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Rebecca M. Giles, Ph.D.

This course shares ideas for supporting young children's writing development through various literature response activities.

Director's Forum: Marketing Strategies to Sustain a Quality Program (Administration Basics Course Day 2)

October 16, 2024 | 9:00am-10:30am 1.5 hrs

CCDF: 18, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Jessica Stinson, Austin Lee, Venay Holden

It's time to let people know about the great things you are doing! In this session, we will discuss strategies for marketing your program through both print and digital campaigns and social media.

Director's Forum: Supervising Staff through Effective and Positive Practices (Administration Basics Course Day 2)

October 16, 2024 | 10:30am-12:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Join us as we discuss qualities that improve the effectiveness of supervisors. We will discuss tips for successfully building collaborative teams, supporting staff, conducting staff reviews, and determining which professional development opportunities would be most beneficial to your team.

Conquering Challenging Conversations with Parents and Caregivers (Administration Basics)

October 16, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16, 19 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 1, 4, 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

In this session, we will share strategies for engaging with families in a constructive manner and navigating through tough dialogues effectively. By fostering understanding and building strong partnerships, you can successfully address challenging topics so that students can thrive.

Director's Forum: Strengthening Business Practices – Marketing Your Program (Administration Basics Day 3)

October 17, 2024 | 8:30am-10:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

The purpose of this training is to strengthen child care providers' understanding of marketing tools, audiences, and elements necessary to develop a marketing plan. It encourages providers to tailor marketing practices to the audience they are trying to reach and to develop effective communication strategies.

DAP: "What's That?"

October 17, 2024 | 10:30am-12:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16, 20 | AL Pathways: MA, ICFC | CDA: 2, 5, 8 | DHR: AM, CD, QCCL | Intermediate | ALL | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

The DAP framework is grounded both in the research on child development and learning and in knowledge about educational effectiveness. Come to this session to discover how DAP promotes young children's optimal learning and development, strategies for implementation, and ideas for helping families understand DAP.

Thinking Outside the Bin: Explore STEM Bins (APT)

October 17, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: LEE | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

The goal of this workshop is for participants to learn the components of STEM and to understand the difference between traditional education and STEM education.

Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education

October 18, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitsos

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs.

Strategies for Guiding Young Children's Learning (CTF)

October 19, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | ALL | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This session will help participants understand that creativity is more than a product—it is a process. There are many stages of drawing and writing that develop through childhood.

Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays (CTF)

October 21, 2024 | 5:00pm-7:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 5, 7 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

During this session, we will identify common hazard situations that are created around activities that we experience during holidays and develop ways to anticipate and prevent them.

Strategies for Guiding Young Children's Learning (CTF)

October 22, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | ALL | Basic | David L. Burt Agriculture Center, Evergreen

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This session will help participants understand that creativity is more than a product—it is a process. There are many stages of drawing and writing that develop through childhood.

Hands at Play: Developing Fine Motor Skills

October 22, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: AM, CD, QCCL | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

The goal for this course is to cultivate strong foundations and foster the development of fine motor skills in preschool-aged children, enabling them to engage in age-appropriate activities and tasks with precision and coordination.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices and Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma

October 22, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 2, 6 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Participants will discuss ways to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Use of Safe Sleep Practices. While also Identifying signs of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and discuss ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information

October 23, 2024 | 10:00am-12:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR

Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7

October 23, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 4, 7 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

Join us as we discuss how to work together to make good decisions for avoiding the common events that could hurt our children at different stages and ages as they grow.

4 Hour Health and Safety Training CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4

October 24, 2024 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Join us for a 4hour Health and Safety Training, designed to meet CCDF categories 1, 2, 3, 4. Dive deep into crucial topics ensuring a safe environment for children. You must register for every individual session CCDF 1, 2, 3, 4 on our website www.greecs.org.

A Positive Mindset in Work and Life

October 24, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 17 | AL Pathways: PPD, LEE | CDA: 1, 6 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this workshop is for participants to develop the tools necessary to create a positive mind-set in work and in life.

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

October 28, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This introduction is designed for any professional early child care educator considering applying for the CDA credential.

Motions and Movements (APT)

October 29, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: CD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

What is the connection between little hands and big feet? Preschoolers are developing motor skills to make motions and movements. This training will help you understand the types of motor skills, how and when they develop, as well as offering simple activities to foster independence.

November '24 TRAINING

Signs of Great Child Care Center (CTF)

November 2, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 5, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Do you ever wonder what parents/guardians are looking for in a childcare program? Join us for an insightful training session where we explore the 10 key indicators of an exceptional childcare center. This session will cover essential aspects such as a nurturing and safe environment, qualified and caring staff, engaging and educational activities, and effective communication with parents.

Super Saturday: 4 Hour Health and Safety Training

CCDF: 1, 3, 4, 5

November 2, 2024 | 8:30am-12:30pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 1, 3, 4, 5 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Join us for a 4 hour Health and Safety Training, designed to meet CCDF categories 1, 3, 4, 5. Dive deep into crucial topics ensuring a safe environment for children.

4 Hour Health and Safety Training CCDF: 5, 6, 7, 8

November 4, 2024 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Join us for a 4hour Health and Safety Training, designed to meet CCDF categories 5, 6, 7, 8. Dive deep into crucial topics ensuring a safe environment for children. You must register for every individual session CCDF 5, 6, 7, 8 on our website www.greecs.org.

Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know (CTF)

November 4, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | ALL | Advanced | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

In this session, participants will be able to apply teaching strategies that are effective for children with autism in their classrooms.

Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9

November 5, 2024 | 9:00am-10:00am 1 hr

CCDF: 9 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Training to provide participants with basic information on safely transporting children. Participants will identify Department of Human Resources (DHR) performance standards for transporting children and discuss safety issues when loading and unloading children.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11

November 5, 2024 | 10:00am-11:00am 1 hr

CCDF: 11 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will identify ways to prevent abuse and neglect from occurring in the early childhood setting and provide steps to reporting suspected abuse and neglect.

Environments That Speak to Us

November 5, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Infant, Toddler, Preschooler | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

The arrangement of the environment affects the behavior of its inhabitants. Children's participation and involvement with activities depends upon how well the environment meets their needs. This training helps teachers prepare a classroom environment that speaks to children.

Developing Fine Motor Skills for Life

November 6, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Writing is one of the most complex skills a human performs with hands. Developmental readiness for writing starts with gross motor movement and play—not worksheets and pencils! This course aims to make participants more aware of ways to create a learning environment full of engaging gross motor activity to support fine motor development.

Director's Forum: Playground 102 - Get Set: "What's It Going to Look Like?"

November 7, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, MA | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: HSUP, AM, CD | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles and Paula Reese

Close your eyes and imagine the playground of your dreams; Participants will create a vision board for a developmentally appropriate playground where children can be themselves and have fun while developing crucial cognitive, emotional, physical and social skills.

A Positive Mindset in Work and Life (CTF)

November 7, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 17 | AL Pathways: PPD, LEE | CDA: 1, 6 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this workshop is for participants to develop the tools necessary to create a positive mindset in work and in life.

Taking a Trip from Minimum Standards to Performance Standards

November 8, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 18, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 1, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Deborah A. Gamble

The licensing process and the Child Care Licensing Performance Standards that all licensed facilities must meet will be discussed.

Developing Fine Motor Skills for Life

November 12, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Writing is one of the most complex skills a human performs with hands. Developmental readiness for writing starts with gross motor movement and play—not worksheets and pencils! This course aims to make participants more aware of ways to create a learning environment full of engaging gross motor activity to support fine motor development.

Let's Rock a Rhyme That's Right on Time; Nursery Rhymes in the 21st Century

November 12, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will explore Nursery Rhymes as a support for language acquisition and speech development; develop auditory skills such as discriminating between sounds, speech patterns, words and music.

Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT)

November 13, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: HSUP, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

We will discuss the elements of a safe space and ways to effectively implement those spaces for young children.

Messy Play or Sensory Play? It's ALL the SAME!

November 14, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2 | DHR: QCCL, CD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This course will identify the concepts of messy play/sensory play and understand their interchangeable usage. It will also explain the importance of sensory play in child development, analyze and discuss the benefits and key characteristics associated with sensory play, along various sensory play activities suitable for enhancing children's learning experiences.

Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education

November 15, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitsos

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs.

Trauma-Responsive Care Strategies and Practices for Infants and Toddlers

November 19, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Participants will explore in depth the importance of responsive and nurturing strategies and practices. They will explore how to create trauma-sensitive environments. And they will examine how play and other trauma-responsive practices and strategies can support babies and toddlers.

All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT)

November 21, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: DIV, LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

Participants will explore Nursery Rhymes as a support for language acquisition and speech development; develop auditory skills such as discriminating between sounds, speech patterns, words and music.

Play on Purpose (APT)

November 26, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: APT Staff

A training designed to bring play into the infant and toddler classroom in a fun and simple way. This training will provide ideas on how to use children's natural curiosity for purposeful early play experiences and explore free PBS resources to use in the classroom and to share with families.

December '24 TRAINING

Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 7, 8

December 2, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 7, 8 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

In this 2 hour session Participants will discuss how to prepare for emergency situations in the child care setting, and how to explain emergencies to young children and what to do after an emergency. Participants will review essential information on handling and storing hazardous materials in the child care setting.

Let's Talk: The Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

December 3, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

In this training, we will learn how speech and language develop, milestones for normal speech and language development as well as ways to support language development through hand on activities.

Life's Little Lessons (APT)

December 3, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: CD | Pre-schoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

In today's world, young children must learn how to navigate separation anxiety and how to become persistent, understanding why being alike and being different is okay and embracing new experiences. Through hands-on activities and PBSKids series and resources, we will learn ways to build and support these life's little lessons.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11

December 4, 2024 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 6, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

This course will provide an overview of prevention efforts, mandated reporting laws and responsibilities, as well as ways child care providers can care for and support children exhibiting symptoms of abuse.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information

December 4, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPE, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR

Curating a Positive Learning Environment (APT)

December 5, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: CD | Pre-schoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Finding effective classroom management tools can be extremely challenging. It requires a lot of intention and consistency to maintain a positive learning environment. In this training, we will explore different methods and tools teachers can use to encourage a positive, cooperative classroom. This training will utilize the PBS KIDS program Work It Out Wombats and various other APT and PBS resources.

Free Public Health & Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training

December 9, 2024 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 10 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Participants will learn the practice and assimilation of skills to perform CPR and Basic First-aid with a certification from The Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) for the child care setting.

Life's Little Lessons (APT)

December 10, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: CD | Pre-schoolers | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

In today's world, young children must learn how to navigate separation anxiety and how to become persistent, understanding why being alike and being different is okay and embracing new experiences. Through hands-on activities and PBSKids series and resources, we will learn ways to build and support these life's little lessons.

Let's Talk: The Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

December 10, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

In this training, we will learn how speech and language develop, milestones for normal speech and language development as well as ways to support language development through hand on activities.

Empowering Kids Through Daily Affirmations

December 11, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

The goal of this course is to discuss why daily affirmations are important and ways to teach affirmations in the classroom.

Taming Troublesome Behaviors


December 12, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16, 19 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 1, 4, 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPE, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Are you looking for effective solutions for managing difficult behaviors in your classroom? You are not alone! Disruptions and distractions can make learning difficult for everyone and often contribute to teacher burnout. In this session, we will discuss the benefits of being proactive instead of reactive and focusing on positive behaviors rather than negative behaviors. We will share practical strategies you can use to help minimize the frequency of challenging behaviors and will address methods for diffusing situations effectively when they do occur.

October 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Circle Time: What Every Childcare Provider Needs to Know</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	2 	3 <i>Supporting Babies and Toddlers on Their Path to Resilience</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	4	5 Super Saturday: 3 Hour Health and Safety Training CCDF: 5, 7, 8; 9:00am-12:00pm; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
7 <i>Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	8 <i>Getting Started (Day 1)</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>A New Look at Play (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Discovery Island, Orange Beach  <i>Family Style Dining at Its Best!</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	9 <i>Getting Started (Day 2)</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile 	10 <i>Getting Started (Day 3)</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile  <i>Getting Along with Others</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	11	12 <i>What Does All That Scribble-Scrabble Mean? (CTF)</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room 
14 	15 <i>Director's Forum: Strengthening Fiscal Management for Childcare Programs: Budgets, Projections and Planning (Administration Basics Orientation)</i> ; 9:00am-12:00pm; Mobile <i>All You Need to Know About TEACH Scholarship Program for the Early Childhood Workforce</i> ; 11:00am-12:00pm; Mobile <i>Reading and Writing with Emerging Authors</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	16 <i>Director's Forum: Marketing Strategies to Sustain a Quality Program (Administration Basics Course Day 2)</i> ; 9:00am-10:30am; Mobile  <i>Director's Forum: Supervising Staff through Effective and Positive Practices (Administration Basics Course Day 2)</i> ; 10:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Conquering Challenging Conversations with Parents and Caregivers (Administration Basics)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	17 <i>Director's Forum: Strengthening Business Practices – Marketing Your Program (Administration Basics Day 3)</i> ; 8:30am-10:30am; Mobile <i>DAP: "What's That?"</i> ; 10:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Thinking Outside the Bin: Explore STEM Bins (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	18 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	19 <i>Strategies for Guiding Young Children's Learning (CTF)</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette 
21 <i>Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays (CTF)</i> ; 5:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile 	22 <i>Strategies for Guiding Young Children's Learning (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; David L. Burt Agriculture Center, Evergreen  <i>Hands at Play: Developing Fine Motor Skills</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices</i> CCDF :2,6 (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL 	23 <i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information</i> ; 10:00am-12:00pm; Webinar <i>Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile 	24 <i>4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4</i> ; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile <i>A Positive Mind-set in Work and Life</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	25	26 
28 <i>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	29 <i>Motions and Movements (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	30 	31  HAPPY HALLOWEEN		

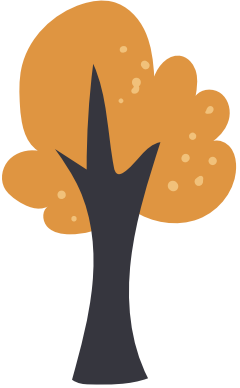











*All classes in Mobile County will be held at Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services unless otherwise noted.

November

2024



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> 	<p>2 Signs of Great Childcare Center (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville</p> <p><i>Super Saturday: 4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 3, 4, 5; 8:30am-12:30pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL</i></p>
<p>4 4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 5, 6, 7, 8; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i></p>  	<p>5 Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11; 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile</i></p> <p><i>Environments That Speak to Us; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</i></p>	<p>6 Developing Fine Motor Skills for Life; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>7 Director's Forum: Playground 102 - Get Set: "What's It Going to Look Like?"; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>A Positive Mindset in Work and Life (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope</i></p> 	<p>8 Taking a Trip from Minimum Standards to Performance Standards; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>9</p> 
<p>11</p> 	<p>12 Developing Fine Motor Skills for Life; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL</p> <p><i>Let's Rock a Rhyme That's Right on Time; Nursery Rhymes in the 21st Century; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i></p>	<p>13 Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT); 5:30pm-7:30pm; Webinar</p>	<p>14 Messy Play or Sensory Play? It's ALL the SAME!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>15 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 Trauma-Responsive Care Strategies and Practices for Infants and Toddlers; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>25</p> 	<p>26 Play on Purpose (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>GRECS and EHS Closed for Thanksgiving</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 

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December 2024



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 <i>Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants</i> CCDF: 7, 8; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL</p>	<p>3 <i>Let's Talk: The Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope</p> <p><i>Life's Little Lessons (APT)</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>4 <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care</i> CCDF: 6, 11; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</p>	<p>5 <i>Curating a Positive Learning Environment (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	6	7
<p>9 <i>Free Public Health & Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training</i>; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>10 <i>Life's Little Lessons (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL</p> <p><i>Let's Talk: The Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>11 <i>Empowering Kids Through Daily Affirmations</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</p>	<p>12 <i>Taming Troublesome Behaviors</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>  	13	14
16 	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	<p>25 GRECS and EHS Closed for Christmas Day</p> <p><i>Merry</i> CHRISTMAS</p>	26	27 	28
30	<p>31 GRECS & EHS Closed for New Years Eve!</p>  	<p>20 25</p> 			

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Asking Questions to Stretch Your Child's Thinking

When you ask your children questions—especially big, open-ended ones—you support their language development and critical thinking. Instead of asking questions with a one-word answer (“Who is your friend?”) or only one right answer (“What color is the crayon?”), try to open the door to conversations in a new way. During family routines like mealtimes or bathtime, while reading bedtime stories together or taking walks, or when you ask your child about their day at preschool, use the following strategies to encourage them to talk about themselves, their ideas, and their reflections.

1. Ask open-ended questions to spark conversations.

Pose questions that will encourage your child to analyze, evaluate, and create, such as

- *What was the best (hardest, funniest, saddest) thing about your day at preschool?*
- *What book did your teacher read today? Tell me the story.*
- *If you had written the story, how would you have changed it?*
- *If you were cooking for our family, what would you make for breakfast (lunch, dinner)? Why?*

2. Allow plenty of wait time. Children need time to process what you're saying, think about it, and then answer. Give them at least a few seconds to respond, and vary the time according to their needs. You know your child best! If the question is one they don't yet have the vocabulary to answer, modify it. During bathtime, for example, if your child doesn't answer when you ask where they think it would be most fun to take a bath, ask if they would rather take a bath at home or at Grandma's house and why. As your child grows and develops, their vocabulary will expand.

3. Listen to your child's responses. Use active listening strategies: make eye contact, encourage your child to share their ideas, and restate or summarize what they say. For example, “You've told me that you love all of the books your teacher reads about animals. Let's go to the library and see if we can find some other books about animals to read at home. Which animals would you like to start with?”

4. Ask another question or make a comment after your child answers.

This further extends your conversation. If you aren't sure how to respond, you can almost always say, “What else can we add to that?” or “Tell me more about that.” For example, “You told me yesterday that your favorite song in preschool is ‘Wheels on the Bus.’ Let's make up a song to that tune to sing at breakfast that starts with, “One food on the table is toast, toast, toast . . .”

5. Have fun together! Don't be afraid to use some big, juicy words to expand your child's vocabulary. You'll be amazed how they add these words to their conversations, once introduced. For example, “You have told me so much about the rock collection in preschool. Maybe you will be a geologist when you grow up.” Or “Let's listen to that song you told me about when an orchestra performs it, rather than just a small band.”

Sample Open-Ended Questions

- What book did your teacher read today? Tell me the story.
- What foods did you see at preschool today that were new or different? Tell me about them.
- What are some words we could use to describe the chicken (rice, vegetables) we're eating? Let's think of words that describe how it smells (tastes, sounds like when we chew).
- What do you think the story will be about? (Look at the front and back covers.)
- What did you think about the story? Did you like it? Why?
- What was your favorite part? Why?
- Can you think of a different ending? Tell me about it.

Training Levels

Basic = Most appropriate for entry-level professionals who are new to early childhood and/or school-age care. Basic Level Training covers a foundational understanding and demonstration of developing skills.

Intermediate = Most appropriate for professionals who have at least (2) years of experience and 120 hours of training in child development, and are moving toward more formal education. Intermediate Level Training includes expanding knowledge and application, and refining skills.

Advanced = Most appropriate for professionals who have at least three (3) years of experience and 30 credit hours in child development. Advanced Level Training focuses on a more thorough knowledge and understanding of developmentally appropriate practice and highly effective application and demonstration of skills.

DHR Performance Standards Training Areas

CD = Child Development

HSUP = Health, Safety, and Universal Precautions

QCCL = Quality Child Care and Licensing

CCPF = Child Care Professional and the Family

LD = Language Development

PDG = Positive Discipline and Guidance

AM = Administration and Management

CDA (Child Development Associate) Subject Areas

1. Planning a safe, healthy learning environment
2. Advancing children's physical and intellectual development
3. Supporting children's social and emotional development
4. Building productive relationships with families
5. Managing an effective program
6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
7. Observing and recording children's behavior
8. Understanding principles of child development and learning

Alabama Pathways Core Knowledge Areas (CKA)

CGD = Child Growth and Development

HSN = Health, Safety and Nutrition

LEE = Learning Experiences and Enrichment

DIV = Diversity

COA = Child Observation and Assessment (Planning for Individual Needs)

ICFC = Interaction with Children, Families and Communities

PPD = Personal and Professional Development

MA = Management and Administration

CCDF Training Areas

1. *Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations)*
2. *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention and use of safe sleep practices*
3. *Administration of medication*
4. *Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions*
5. *Building and physical premises safety, including identifying electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic*
6. *Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and abusive head trauma*
7. *Emergency preparedness and response planning for natural or man-caused events*
8. *Handling and storage of hazardous materials, including correct disposal of bio-contaminants*
9. *If applicable, appropriate precautions in transporting children*
10. *First-aid and CPR*
11. *Recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect*
12. *Identifying and serving homeless children and their families*
13. *Promoting the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children, including those related to nutrition and physical activity, using scientifically-based, developmentally appropriate and age appropriate strategies*
14. *Caring for children in geographic areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment*
15. *Implementing behavior strategies, including positive behavior interventions and support models that promote positive social and emotional development and reduce challenging behaviors, including reducing expulsions of preschool-aged children for such behaviors*
16. *Engaging parents and families in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to expand their knowledge, skills and capacity to be meaningful partners in supporting their children's positive development*
17. *Understanding early neurological development*
18. *Using data to guide program improvement*
19. *Supporting positive development of school-age children*
20. *Improving the quality of programs and services for infants and toddlers*

Target Age Groups

Infants = Birth to 12 months

Toddlers = 1 and 2 year olds

Preschoolers = 3 and 4 year olds

School-agers = 5 to 12 year olds

ALL = Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and School-agers





The Professional Development Registry (PDR) will allow you to:

- Create your own early childhood professional and training profile.
- Document your professional accomplishments and professional certificates.
- Identify your current place on the Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice.
- Collaborate with state-designated training agencies to help you identify and reach your goals.
- Link to official training organizations.
- Access to available resources.

Things to remember:

- Website address – www.alabamapathways.org
- An updated User Guide is always available for your reference on your dashboard
- FAQ's - <https://www.alabamapathways.org/api/file/s/faq>
- When adding info into the profile, go to each tab to add information: education, employment, etc.
- A Help Desk will be available on the footer of the page on the left side.
- When setting up your account, remember to use your PERSONAL email.
- As a FINAL step, don't forget to associate yourself with the facility at which you are working.

Your profile belongs to you! Take it along wherever your professional journey may take you! All you have to do is log in!

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information

October 23, 2024 | 10:00am-12:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information

December 4, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR

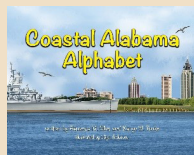
Join Dr. Rebecca Giles for a Series on Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors

Dr. Giles will lead an engaging series of sessions focused on nurturing young writers and fostering a love of writing in children. Each session explores a unique aspect of supporting and inspiring emerging authors:

Reading and Writing with Emerging Authors

6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
GRECS Training Room, Mobile



Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Dr. Rebecca Giles and gain valuable insights into creating classrooms where young authors can flourish! The Resource Place has several copies of Dr. Rebecca Giles' influential books available for checkout! Visit our comprehensive library today!

Smart Horizons On-Demand Courses

Our online training courses are designed to help you meet your professional goals. Whether you simply want to complete annual training requirements or you're trying to acquire training hours for a CDA, our courses provide a variety of engaging topics designed specifically for you!

We have scholarships available for this program!

Call Sofie McNamara at
251-473-1060
for more information!

APT Fall Online Training

Each Quarter, Alabama Public Television™ offers free online training for anyone interested in expanding their professional development! We encourage you to check out what they have in store and register directly through their website,

<https://aptv.org/education/learn-online/>

Registration opens on their website
Monday, September 16, 2024

Scan for more information about APT's Fall Online Training!



APT's On-Demand Training Catalog

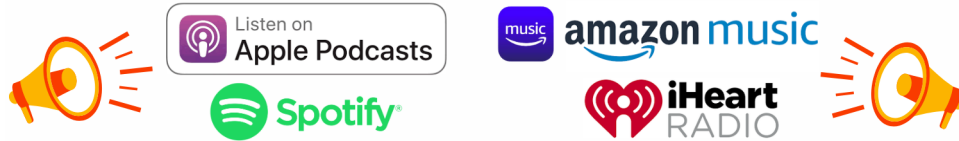


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GRECS is taking early learning to the airwaves.




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Remember, UNrattled and Tiny Talks podcasts are more than just audio experiences—they're invitations to explore new perspectives, challenge your thinking, and cultivate a mind-set of continuous growth and discovery.

JOHNNIE FROST
THE DIRECTOR OF KINDERKIDS




Alabama
ITSN
Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network




The Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) works to elevate the standards of care in early childhood settings by increasing the knowledge, skill level, and confidence of those who care for infants and toddlers. ITSN provides opportunities for specialized training, technical assistance, coaching with highly skilled specialists, and a state-recognized ITSN Teacher Credential certification at no cost to early childhood educators.

Thank you for your interest in Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network. Scan the QR Code and submit the Interest Survey.

A member of AITSN will contact you after completion.



WORKING WITH VICTORIA AND GRECS THROUGH THE ITSN COACHING PROGRAM HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR OUR TODDLER TEACHERS. THE GUIDANCE, SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP PROVIDED BY THIS PROGRAM HAS GIVEN OUR TODDLER TEACHERS A STRONG FOUNDATION IN WHICH TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND LEAD THEIR CLASSROOMS. BY PROVIDING OUR TEACHERS EASY-TO-IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES, OUR TEACHERS HAVE GROWN IN THEIR CONFIDENCE TO LEAD CLASSROOMS THROUGH LANGUAGE-RICH, POSITIVE INTERACTIONS. VICTORIA'S SUPPORT ALONG THE WAY WAS INVALUABLE AS SHE PROVIDED OUR TEACHERS A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM, LISTENED TO THEIR STRUGGLES, AND IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS EACH ONE. IN DOING SO, WE'VE SEEN AN INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION THAT IS EVIDENT TO EVERYONE WHO ENTERS OUR PROGRAM.

ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

Benefits for Child Care Centers, Family and Group Home Providers

Availability

Alabama's new Special Needs Childcare Subsidy is available statewide.

Reimbursement

Participating centers will be reimbursed \$250 per week. There is no penalty when a child is not in attendance, so the center will be reimbursed regardless of attendance.

Inclusion Support

Childcare staff will have FREE access to training, consultation, technical assistance, and adaptive materials provided by Childcare Enhancement with a Purpose (CCEP) Inclusion Consultants statewide to support inclusion in the classroom.



About the Subsidy

Financial assistance is now available for qualifying Alabama families of a child with special needs to attend quality, inclusive childcare programs statewide. To qualify, the child must be receiving services (IFSP, IEP, private therapy, etc.).

To learn more, or to determine eligibility, contact Melissa Anderson, Statewide Childcare Enhancement with a Purpose Project Manager, at manderson@ucphuntsville.org or 256-859-4900.



The Resource Place

at  GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Call today to make your appointment with us!

Browse our comprehensive lending library and workroom where you'll find:

Children's Books * Teacher Resource Books* Outdoor Play Materials*

Manipulatives* Puzzles* Puppets* Big Books * Laminating Machine *

Bulletin Board Paper and More!!!!

Call 251- 473-1060

Monday | 9am-4pm Tuesday | 9am-4pm

Wednesday | Closed

Thursday | 9am-4pm Friday | 9am-2pm

visit our website for more information at www.grecs.org

Interested in a Membership?

Visit our website at www.grecs.org and fill out our online application today!

If you need more assistance or have any questions, please contact

Marybeth Fields at 251-473-1060 ext 1702

Coming Soon

We are looking forward to having our library and resources available online to check out and reserve at your convenience! More information to come, subscribe to our newsletters to stay up-to-date!



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Register today.
Scan and select the "getting started" tab.



Lift them higher with quality early care and education.

 334-604-6260  info@alabamaqualitystars.org

SUPPORT CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

We are celebrating over 20 years of collaboration with the Children's Trust Fund supported through the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention!

Caring for the Caregiver allows us opportunities to provide training and support to Child Care providers.

We appreciate all who participate to make this project possible and help educate parents and caregivers on the prevention of child neglect and abuse.

The next time you renew your car tag, purchase this specialty tag at your local Probate office. It is tax deductible & proceeds directly fund community-based prevention programs.



Gulf Regional Childcare Management Agency, Inc.

3101 International Drive, Building 6 Mobile, AL 36606

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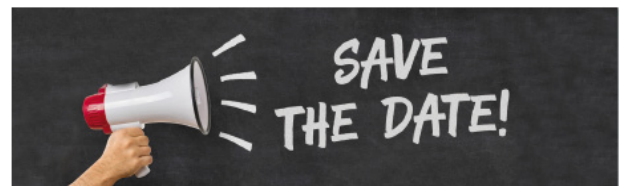
GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



Make sure to like,
follow and friend us on
all of our media outlets
to stay up to date with all
the latest happenings and
events!



November 28, 2024

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25, 2024

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 31, 2024

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for New Years Eve