

Early Learning News

April, May, June 2025



BUILD



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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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"The more you **READ**,
the more things you
will **know**. The more
you **learn**, the more
places you'll **go**."
- Dr. Suess

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.

Please join GRECS and The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, "The Children's Trust Fund", in advocating for children and the strengthening of families in an effort to provide children with happier, healthier and safer lives.

Together we can make a difference!



Wear Blue Day - Blue is the color of prevention, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the national "Wear Blue Day" on **Friday April 4th!** By wearing blue, people throughout the state can demonstrate an awareness of and commitment to our shared responsibility for

the physical, emotional and mental well-being of the children and families in our communities!

Pinwheel Garden - Pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention by representing the happy, healthy childhoods that all children deserve. Donate to PCA America and plant a pinwheel with your message of support to show how you are helping families and children thrive! GRECS will plant a pinwheel garden to kick off Child Abuse Prevention month. Let's watch them whirl!



For more information about the virtual garden visit www.preventchildabuse.org



naeyc
Week of the Young Child™

April 5th-11th

#WOYC25

Join NAEYC as we celebrate our youngest learners with five fun-filled, themed days. All week long we'll be featuring resources and activity ideas for teachers and families that will make play meaningful and learning fun!

NAEYC invites you to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via our social channels. We look forward to seeing all the creative ways you find to engage young children and their families with hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art

Kick-off is Saturday **April 5th**. Take that day to prepare your activities for the following week, email your parents so they can plan for Family Friday activities and plan a virtual event with your social media community! The important thing is that we're celebrating the potential of ALL young children to learn, grow and thrive!

This is your time to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via social media channels. Post your activities on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #WOYC25!

Learn more by visiting:
www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview

Contact us at www.grecs.org or through our Facebook page - @GRECSMobile



MUSIC MONDAY

Music Monday is more than singing and dancing, it's a way to encourage children to be active while developing their early literacy skills and having fun with friends and family!

FEATURED CLASSES

The Power of MUSIC

April 7, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 7TH #woyc25 naeyc.org/events/woyc



TASTY TUESDAY

Tasty Tuesday isn't just about eating your favorite snacks together. It's also about cooking together and connecting math with literacy skills and science while introducing ways to incorporate healthy habits into children's lifestyles!

FEATURED CLASS

Souped Up Storytime!

April 8, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 8TH #woyc25 naeyc.org/events/woyc



WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material - from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home!

FEATURED CLASS

Curating a Positive Learning Environment (APT)

April 9, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 9TH #woyc25 naeyc.org/events/woyc



ARTSY THURSDAY

On Artsy Thursday, celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative play. create and share photos of your children's creations on social media using the hashtag #woyc25.

FEATURED CLASSES

Chalk It Up!

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

APRIL 10TH #woyc25 naeyc.org/events/woyc



FAMILY FRIDAY

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories about your family on social media using the hashtag #woyc25

APRIL 11TH #woyc25 naeyc.org/events/woyc



Spark the Joy of Learning!

A CAMP ADVENTURE FOR EARLY EDUCATORS


Join us for 3 unforgettable days of learning, connection, & inspiration. Engage in hands-on workshops, dynamic sessions, & collaborative activities that reinforce the foundations of early learning & development.

Don't miss this opportunity to build lasting connections & reignite your passion for shaping young minds.

June 16 - 18, 2025
Registration - \$295
Virtual Pass Available; Prices good thru 2/28/25

The Lodge @ Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores, AL

For More Information :

 251-444-1723

 aalece@gmail.com

 www.alabamachildcare.org



Stay, Play & Learn!

NOTHING COMPARES TO THE IN-PERSON EXPERIENCE @ THE LODGE!

Rooms starting @ \$289

Group Code 93P

Hilton Central Reservations Department at 800-618-4350

Featured Speakers



Chazz Lewis



Amanda Morgan



Mr. Ty



Krystal H. Allen



251-444-1723



aaalece@gmail.com



www.alabamachildcare.org

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.grecs.org

CCDF Health and Safety Courses 2025

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in April, May and June 2025!

- **April 2:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **April 16:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6 (CTF); 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 16:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF); 11:30am-12:30pm; **Mobile**
- **April 24:** Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT) (CTF) CCDF: 13, 15, 16; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **April 29:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11 (CTF); 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **April 30:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 30:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 7:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 7:** Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 14:** 3 Hour Health and Safety Training; CCDF: 4, 5, 6; 8:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 21:** Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 4:** Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 4:00pm-5:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 4:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF: 5; 5:00pm-6:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 10:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **June 10:** Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **June 25:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 25:** Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 4 & 5, 2025

UNITED WAY
Southwest Alabama

Day of Caring

UNITED IS THE WAY

WE BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

SUPER SATURDAY

with

VICKI GILES AND ADRIENNE BUTTEL

MATH, MOVEMENT AND THE POWER OF LANGUAGE (APT)

Join us for Math and Movement, an engaging session where we'll explore how combining movement with math enhances brain development in early childhood. This dynamic approach fosters cognitive skills, coordination, pattern recognition, and spatial awareness, laying a strong foundation for future learning. During the session, you'll learn practical strategies for incorporating movement and math in everyday activities to support young children's growth and development. Let's Talk: The Power of Language, we will explore the fascinating process of speech and language development. We will discover key milestones for typical speech and language progression, and learn effective strategies to support and enhance language development in children.

(AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC; DHR: CD, LD, QCCL, PDG; CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8; CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20; Basic Training Level; 4 hours/0.4 CEUs; Age Groups: Infants, Toddlers Preschoolers)

Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 | 9:30am-1:30pm

**Future Achievers, Evergreen
532 S Main St Evergreen AL 36401
251-578-0364**



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)

April 15-17, 2025 | 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!

April '25 TRAINING

Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood

April 1, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Rebecca Giles

Teachers must recognize creative thinking as the heart of all learning and prioritize opportunities for children to think and act creatively. This session will explore developmentally appropriate practices to enhance children's creative self-expression during routine class activities such as art, story time, and blocks.

First-Aid and CPR Training

April 2, 2025 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Training is to provide participants with 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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Exploring Diversity and Differences in the Classroom

April 3, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: DIV, CGD | CDA: 3, 4, 8 | DHR: CCPE, QCCL | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This training will discover that diversity is about more than differences; it is about similarities and differences combined – those characteristics that make us who we are. This workshop also explores how educators can learn to successfully lay the foundation for inclusion and acceptance in child care settings.

Acting Out! Avoiding Behavior Challenges with Active Learning Games

April 5, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This presentation will provide participants with active learning games and activities to avoid behavior challenges in the classroom.

The Power of Music

April 7, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin, Lennox Steele

The goal for this training is to inform participants on how music can stimulate children's cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development. Participants will demonstrate how to incorporate movement into the early childcare setting.

Souped Up Storytime!

April 8, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Storytime can be a delightful experience with the right ingredients. Come get the recipe that will spice up your read-alouds.

Curating a Positive Learning Environment (APT)

April 9, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Preschoolers | 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.

Supporting Young Learners with Autism

April 10, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17 | AL Pathways: CD, QCCL | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CGD, LEE | ALL | Basic | Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Understanding young learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); preparing early childhood educators to work effectively with young learners and their families. Strategies that incorporate best practices as well as recognize individual strengths and needs.

Chalk It Up!

April 10, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This session aims to equip early childhood educators with knowledge and hands-on strategies for effectively implementing classroom chalk activities and fostering children's learning and development through play-based and artistic experiences.

Creative Activities for Family Child Care Homes

April 12, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Jackie White

This workshop is designed for family child care providers looking to enhance their daily routines with engaging, developmentally appropriate activities for young children. Through hands-on activities, providers will learn how to create fun and meaningful activities that support children's learning and development while fostering creativity and curiosity. Attendees will leave with a toolkit of ideas.

Getting Started 2025 (CTF)

April 15-17, 2025 | 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!*

Art All Year: Simple Paint Projects for Every Season

April 15, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Rebecca Giles

The interaction of large and small motor skills with different sized brushes and various colors of paint are not only developmentally appropriate but can enhance learning across the curriculum. This session will introduce four painting projects inspired by quality children's literature that explore the science behind nature and the seasons. Come prepared to paint!

Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6 (CTF)

April 16, 2025 | 10:30am-11:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Identify signs of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and discuss ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF)

April 16, 2025 | 11:30am-12:30pm 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Look at What I Made!

April 17, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Preschool Art is not just about creating pretty pictures. It's a journey of discovery, learning and self-expression for preschool children. Let's look at how to foster free exploration with art materials.

Exploring Science Through Storytime: Read Aloud Strategies for Young Learners

April 22, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Unlock the magic of science for young minds through captivating stories and engaging hands-on activities that reinforce key concepts. Gain practical tips and resources that will make science come alive and inspire a love of learning! Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your teaching toolkit and spark curiosity through the power of storytelling!

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

April 24, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

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

Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure: Building Resilient Children

April 26, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Helping children develop strong social skills and emotional security is essential for their lifelong success. Participants will learn practical techniques to create supportive environments that nurture confidence, empathy, and self-regulation. Join us to discover how to lay the foundation for socially strong, emotionally secure children!

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

April 29, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 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

Participants will examine the roles and responsibilities of child care providers in recognizing, reporting, and responding to child abuse and neglect within the early child care setting. 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.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1

April 30, 2025 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting. Participants will demonstrate ways to prevent the spread of diseases in the child care setting. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 (CTF)

April 30, 2025 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Participants will discuss ways to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Use of Safe Sleep Practices. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Stuck Like Glue: Healthy Attachment for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

April 30, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Providing and fostering healthy attachment is important to the development of infants and toddlers. In this training, we will discuss ways to implement and build healthy attachment styles by utilizing a variety of hands-on activities, PBS KIDS resources and children's books.

May '25 TRAINING

Director's Forum: Playground 103: "Bringing the Inside Out!"

May 1, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese, Vicki Giles

Participants will examine the outdoor learning environment as an extension of the indoor environment; extending the learning that takes place indoors to the outdoor environment. Learning time in the outdoor space provides limitless options; designed with the same intentionality, and should evoke, inspire and motivate, and accommodate the needs of each individual.

May '25 TRAINING Continued..

Trauma-Responsive Care Strategies and Practices for Infants and Toddlers

May 1, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

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

Super Saturday 4 Hour Training: Math, Movement and The Power of Language (APT)

May 3, 2025 | 9:30am-1:30pm 4 hrs/0.4 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD, QCCL, PDG | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | Future Achievers, 553 S Main St, Evergreen, AL 36401

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles and Adrienne Buttel

Join us for Math and Movement, where we'll explore how combining movement with math boosts brain development in early childhood. Learn practical strategies to enhance cognitive skills, coordination, and spatial awareness through active learning. In Let's Talk: The Power of Language, we'll dive into speech and language development, key milestones, and effective ways to support children's communication skills. *More information on page 5.*

Whirl, Twirl, and Sing: Interactive Music Strategies for Young Learners

May 6, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

This training will equip you with innovative strategies to introduce musical strategies through singing songs with hands-on musical activities. Learn how to create a learning environment that fosters a love for whirling, twirling, and singing along!

CPR and First Aid Refresher

May 7, 2025 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

The purpose of this training is to provide participants with CPR and basic First Aid refresher facts. No skills or return demonstration during this class. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Administration of Medication CCDF: 3

May 7, 2025 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Participants will identify situations which may require administration of medications and list the symptoms of allergies.

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

May 7, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: DIV, LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Come take a journey with us around the world as we celebrate diversity and inclusion. In this training, we will discuss different holidays that will be supported by hands-on activities, discussions, and the use of children's books.

Intentional Wellness through Rest and Self-Compassion

May 8, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, PDG | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Our days are filled with responsibilities – work, school, family, friends, and more. While responsibilities must often take priority, it is essential for our own wellness that we intentionally incorporate rest and self-compassion into our daily routines.

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

May 9, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPE, 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. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Building Strong Family Partnerships for Child Success

May 13, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC | CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith and Paula Reese

To equip early childhood educators with family engagement strategies and strengthen relationships between families and educators to support child development and academic success.

3 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF Categories: 4, 5, 6

May 14, 2025 | 8:30am-11:30am 3 hrs

CCDF: 4, 5, 6 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Join us for a 3-hour Health and Safety Training, designed to meet CCDF categories 4, 5 and 6. Dive deep into crucial topics ensuring a safe environment for children, including emergency preparedness, building premises safety, and prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Equip yourself with practical strategies and insights to excel in your role while safeguarding the well-being of those under your care. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

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

May 15, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Adriane Buttel

We will explore the fascinating process of speech and language development. We will discover key milestones for typical speech and language progression, and learn effective strategies to support and enhance language development in children.

Stop, Look, and Listen: The Value of Observation (APT)

May 20, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this training is to recognize how observation plays an integral part in the childcare setting. This training will also demonstrate ways observation can be used as a bridge between the childcare giver and the child's parent as well as support the developmental steps of infants and toddlers.

Keeping Children Safe CCDF: 4, 7 (CTF)

May 21, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Preparing Parents for Change

May 22, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: ICFC, GCD | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This course will explore various effective strategies for informing and preparing parents for changes in the early childhood education setting.

More than 1,2,3... What is Early Numeracy? (APT)

May 28, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Through engaging hands-on activities, participants will learn that early numeracy is more than counting. This training will provide ideas and concepts that support children as they explore patterns, problem solving and estimation while utilizing PBS KIDS.

Communicating Through Behaviors (APT)

May 29, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Behavior is a form of communication but is often difficult to translate. In this training, participants will learn ways to observe and interpret behaviors to better meet the needs of the child through hands on activities. This training will utilize the PBS KIDS series Sesame Street and various other APT and PBS resources.

June '25 TRAINING

Different Leadership Styles: What Is My Style? (APT)

June 3, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 20 | AL Pathways: MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

What type of leader are you? How can you strengthen your leadership practices? Why doesn't this one leadership style work for you? In this training, we will explore these questions, and many others, through discussions and demonstrations.

A Calm Brain is a Thinking Brain

June 3, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2 | DHR: CD, PDG | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this workshop is for participants to gain knowledge about the Brain-SET environment and how it can help to ensure that "a calm brain is a thinking brain" for teachers and children.

Administration of Medication CCDF: 3

June 4, 2025 | 4:00pm-5:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will identify situations which may require administration of medications and list the symptoms of allergies. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF: 5

June 4, 2025 | 5:00pm-6:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will discuss essential information on ways to identify potential risks and promote building and physical premises safety in the child care setting including Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, Vehicular Traffic, Playground Safety, and Sun Safety. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

June 4, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This introduction is designed for any professional early child care educator considering applying for the CDA credential. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Meaningful Experiences Through Schedules and Transitions

June 5, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, GCD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

To equip early childhood educators with strategies to create meaningful and developmentally appropriate experiences for children by utilizing effective schedules and smooth transitions.

June '25 TRAINING Continued..

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

June 5, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama Pathways and how it can help teachers in the early childhood profession. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Motor Development: Motor Milestones

June 9, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: HSUP, CD | ALL | Advanced | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Participants will discuss developmentally appropriate activities that foster physical development and build self-esteem. The activities are built around developmental motor milestones and are flexible enough to encourage skill development for a variety of learners.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7

June 10, 2025 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Participants 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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF:9

June 10, 2025 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr

CCDF: 9 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | *No CEU Credit is awarded*

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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.

Math Magic: Creating Learning Centers for Young Learners

June 10, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

This training session will provide you with creative and engaging activities to introduce math concepts within learning centers. By incorporating these fun learning centers, you will foster a love of math in your young learners. You will discover how to create enjoyable and educational math centers!

Employee Retention: Building and Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment (APT)

June 12, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Adriane Buttell

In today's work environment, building and sustaining a healthy workplace is essential to retaining employees. In this training, we will discuss tools and ways to maintain employees effectively and efficiently.

No More Biting: Understanding and Preventing Biting Behavior in Young Children

June 14, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | Washington County Public Library - large training room, 14102 St. Stephens Ave., Chatom, AL 36518

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Participants will gain practical tools to support children's social-emotional development while fostering a safe and nurturing environment.

Science Corners: Creating Hands-on Learning Centers for Young Minds

June 24, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Learn how to design interactive science centers that captivate young learners. You will gain practical strategies and resources for science centers that foster exploration and discovery where young minds thrive and grow!

First-Aid and CPR Training

June 25, 2025 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Training is to provide participants with 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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8 (CTF)

June 25, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 1, 8 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | *No CEU Credit is awarded*

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

During this session we will explore, how germs are spread and what we can do to prevent disease transmission at home and work.

Strengthening Business Practices: Recruiting and Retaining Staff for Center-Based Child Care Providers

June 26, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese, Vicki Giles

"Looking to hire new staff?" This training supports child care administrators in their efforts to strengthen systems of staff recruitment and improve their ability to retain quality staff.

Thinking Outside of the Bin: Exploring STEM Bins (APT)

June 26, 2025 | 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: Lennox Steele

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.










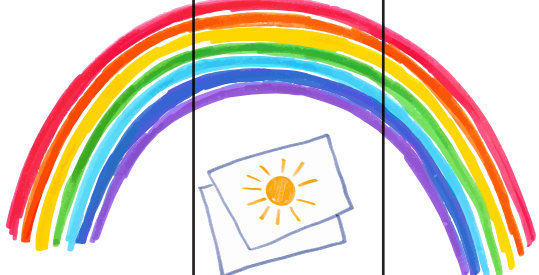
Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education

June 27, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

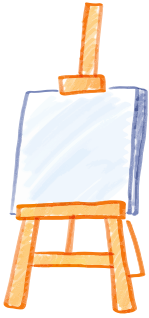











CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitos











April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	2 First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile	3 Exploring Diversity and Differences in the Classroom; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	4 Day of Caring UWSWA Wear Blue Day! CTF 	5 Acting Out! Avoiding Behavior Challenges with Active Learning Games; 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
7 The Power of Music; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Music Monday #WOYC2025	8 Souped Up Storytime!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile Tasty Tuesday #WOYC2025	9 Curating a Positive Learning Environment (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Work Together Wednesday #WOYC2025	10 Supporting Young Learners with Autism; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Kids Plus Child Development Center, Foley, AL Chalk It Up!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile Artsy Thursday #WOYC2025	11 Family Friday #WOYC2025	12 Creative Activities for Family Child Care Homes; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile
14 	15 Getting Started 2025 (Day 1) CTF; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile Art All Year: Simple Paint Projects for Every Season; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	16 Getting Started 2025 (Day 2) CTF; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6 (CTF); 10:30am-11:30am; Mobile  Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF); 11:30am-12:30pm; Mobile 	17 Getting Started 2025 (Day 3) CTF; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile Look at What I Made!; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	18 GRECS & EHS Closed for Good Friday	19 
21	22 Exploring Science Through Storytime: Read Aloud Strategies for Young Learners; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Earth Day!	23 	24 Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT) (CTF); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile 	25	26 Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure: Building Resilient Children; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville
28 	29 Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11 (CTF); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile 	30 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF : 1; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile  Stuck Like Glue: Healthy Attachment for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile			

May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 <i>Director's Forum: Playground 103 Go; "Bringing Inside Out!"</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Trauma-Responsive Care Strategies and Practices for Infants and Toddlers</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	2	<p>3 <i>Super Saturday 4 Hour Training: Math, Movement and The Power of Language (APT)</i>; 9:30am-1:30pm; Future Achievers, Evergreen</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation Week! May 5th -9th, 2025</p>	<p>6 <i>Whirl, Twirl, and Sing: Interactive Music Strategies for Young Learners</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>7 <i>CPR and First Aid Refresher</i> ; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Administration of Medication CCDF</i>: 3; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</p>	<p>8 <i>Intentional Wellness through Rest and Self-Compassion</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>9 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Provider Appreciation Day!</p>	10 
12 	<p>13 <i>Building Strong Family Partnerships for Child Success</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>14 <i>3 Hour Health and Safety Training</i>; CCDF: 4, 5, 6; 8:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>15 <i>Let's Talk: The Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	16	17 
19	<p>20 <i>Stop, Look, and Listen: The Value of Observation (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>21 <i>Keeping Children Safe</i> CCDF: 4, 7 (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>22 <i>Preparing Parents for Change</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	23 	24
<p>26</p> <p>GRECS & EHS Closed for Memorial Day</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28 <i>More than 1,2,3... What is Early Numeracy?</i> (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>29 <i>Communicating Through Behaviors (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	30	31 

June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> 	<p>3 <i>Different Leadership Styles: What Is My Style?</i> (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>A Calm Brain is a Thinking Brain;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope</p>	<p>4 <i>Administration of Medication</i> CCDF: 3; 4:00pm-5:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic</i> CCDF: 5; 5:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</p> 	<p>5 <i>Meaningful Experiences Through Schedules and Transitions;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information;</i> 4:00pm-6:00pm; Webinar</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>9 <i>Motor Development: Motor Milestones;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>10 <i>Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events</i> CCDF: 7; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children</i> CCDF: 9; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Math Magic: Creating Learning Centers for Young Learners;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12 <i>Employee Retention: Building and Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment</i> (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14 <i>No More Biting: Understanding and Preventing Biting Behavior in Young Children;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>2025 Gulf Coast Early Childhood Summer Symposium Spark the Joy of Learning!</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>GRECS & EHS Closed for Juneteenth</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Science Corners: Creating Hands-on Learning Centers for Young Minds;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>25 <i>First-Aid and CPR Training;</i> 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases</i> CCDF: 1, 8 (CTF); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>26 <i>Strengthening Business Practices: Recruiting and Retaining Staff for Center-Based Child Care Providers;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p><i>Thinking Outside of the Bin: Exploring STEM Bins</i> (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>27 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>28</p> 
<p>30</p>					

Get Children Outside!

The Importance of Outdoor Play for Young Children

The outdoors offers so many wonderful opportunities for different activities. Just look around and use your imagination. Remember, a great activity does not require expensive toys, with fancy props. The outdoors provides such a rich environment that a few simple items are all you need to create activities that are both fun and educational. The activities are not outside crafts to be done inside. **THE POINT IS TO GET CHILDREN OUTSIDE!**



Making Rubbings

To begin this activity, take the children on a leaf search. Make sure you bring bags or other containers to hold the leaves the children collect. There are many math and language concepts you may naturally discuss during and after the collection. For example:

- Which leaf is biggest?
- How many do you have?
- How do they feel?

Making rubbings from the leaves is a simple process, as long as certain supplies are set up in advance. You will want to guide the children through the following steps:

- Place each leaf on some sort of hard surface, such as a clipboard or plastic shoebox top.
- Hold the leaf in place with masking tape or painter's tape (or something else that is easy to remove).
- Place a sheet of paper over the leaf.
- With the leaf positioned between the hard surface and the sheet of paper covering it, rub over the paper with the side of a crayon that has had the paper peeled off of it.
- As patterns emerge from the rubbings, encourage children to see the beauty of nature and to look at patterns and textures. This is an opportunity for them to compare and contrast items.

Paint color chips are great for a variety of children's activities and are easily found at your local hardware or paint store. Usually, they will be generous and allow you to take some for a classroom activity. (Make sure you select paint chips with colors that can be found outside.)

- **Scavenger Match:** Obtain some metal rings, then punch holes in the paint chips and put a few on each ring. Divide your class into groups and give each group one ring and ask them to find items that match the color of the paint chips on their ring.
- **Match & Sketch:** Obtain some clipboards and then attach a selection of paint chips to each one. Then divide the class into groups and give one clipboard to each and ask the children to sketch items they find that match the colors of the paint chips on their clipboard. Encourage children to observe each other's work and socialize.

Using Paint Color Chips



Working with Stones

Simple stones can provide the basis for extraordinarily rich activities. Of particular note is an approach developed by Dr. Diana Suskind, which she calls "Stonework Play." Her approach, in basic terms, is built around five steps: (1) gathering the stones, which allows each student to exercise his or her own judgement as the stones are selected, (2) constructing an artwork with the stones, (3) drawing a picture of the artwork, (4) telling others about your work, and (5) being respectful of the other students' works.

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





Why Choose Bright Beginnings+?

- ✔ Infants: Gentle activities for bonding and development.
- ✔ Toddlers: Hands-on fun to inspire learning through play.
- ✔ Preschoolers: Creative and educational activities to prepare for kindergarten!
- ✔ Affordable: Each calendar costs \$7.50 and drawstring bags: \$1.50



Features You'll Love:



Daily Activities:
Easy-to-follow,
age-appropriate
ideas.



Skill
Development:
Supports
cognitive,
physical, and
social growth.



Caregiver
Friendly: Perfect
for parents,
teachers, and
caregivers.



Creative Play:
Encourages
imagination and
hands-on learning.



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Designed:
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development
principles.



Time-Saving:
All-in-one
resource for
busy
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Make Learning Fun All Year Long!

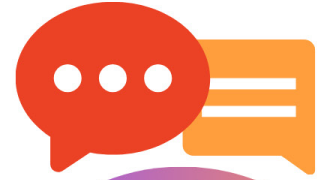
Empower your child's growth with our thoughtfully curated activity calendar, designed to inspire learning and fun every day for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Bulk orders available. Visit our website for more information.
<https://www.grecs.org/pnc-bright-beginnings-activity-calendar/>



Have You Heard?

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.

Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival



May 8th 2025

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
The Grounds

The festival will be held at:
The Grounds
1035 Cody Road North
Mobile, AL 36608



Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama invites teachers and students to our annual Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival. This free event features children's book authors, live book readings, and free book giveaways for teachers, students and entire classrooms! Drawstring backpacks will be given to the first 2000 children. Established in 2019, the goal of the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is to get books into the hands of young readers and inspire a life-long love of reading. The Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama's Read. Learn. Achieve Initiative.

Must be registered to attend.

For more information, contact our office at 251.432.1235 or boy.girl@bgcsouthal.org. <https://www.bgcsouthal.org/what-we-do/festival/>



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.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

June 5, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Shaunda Reaves

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama Pathways and how it can help teachers in the early childhood profession. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

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

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.

APT Spring 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 **March 2025**

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



APT's On-Demand Training Catalog



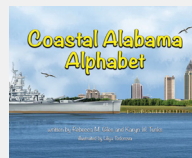
Join Dr. Rebecca Giles for a Series on Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors

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:

Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood

April 1, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile



Art All Year: Simple Paint Projects for Every Season

April 15, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | 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!

Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9, 2025

Teachers are the heart of early learning! Every day, they shape young minds, foster curiosity, and build strong foundations for lifelong success. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we honor the dedication, patience, and passion of our early childhood educators who go above and beyond to nurture the next generation.

A simple "thank you" can mean the world to a teacher. Take a moment this week to show appreciation—write a heartfelt note, share a kind word, or give a small token of gratitude. Whether they're helping little ones take their first steps in learning or offering a comforting hug, early childhood teachers make a lasting impact.

To all our incredible educators—thank you for your unwavering commitment, creativity, and love for learning. You are truly making a difference every single day!



Provider Appreciation Day May 9, 2025

On May 9, we celebrate Provider Appreciation Day, a special day to recognize the hard work, dedication, and invaluable role that child care providers play in the lives of children and families. These caregivers, teachers, and program leaders create safe, nurturing environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

Quality early childhood education wouldn't be possible without the commitment of our providers. They are not only caregivers but also educators, mentors, and pillars of support for families in our communities.

Join us in saying **THANK YOU** to all the child care providers who give their time, energy, and heart to shaping a brighter future. Whether it's a simple note, a small gift, or words of encouragement, let's make sure they know how deeply valued they are.

Happy Provider Appreciation Day to all who dedicate themselves to the well-being of young children—you are truly appreciated!



Small Acts, Big Impact: Ways to Show Appreciation

Showing gratitude doesn't have to be grand to be meaningful! Here are a few simple ways to make early childhood educators and providers feel valued this appreciation week:

- **Write a heartfelt note** – A few kind words can brighten a teacher's day and remind them of the difference they make.
- **Surprise them with a treat** – A small snack, coffee, or a favorite treat can be a thoughtful way to say thanks.
- **Create a class project** – Have children draw pictures or write "thank you" messages to display in the classroom.
- **Give a shoutout** – Share a message of appreciation on social media or within your school community.
- **Offer a moment of kindness** – A simple "thank you," a warm smile, or an encouraging word can go a long way.

No matter how big or small, acts of appreciation remind teachers and providers that their hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Let's celebrate them this week—and every week—for the incredible impact they have on young lives!

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!!!!

Monday | 9am-4pm
Tuesday | 9am-4pm
Wednesday | Closed
Thursday | 9am-4pm
Friday | 9am-2pm

Call
251- 473-1060

Scan to sign
up now!



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!



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

Ph. 251.473.1060

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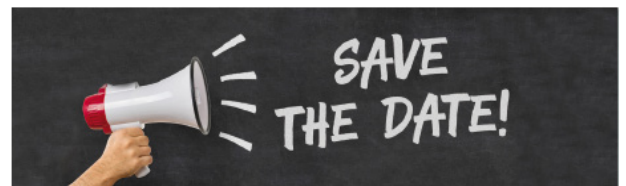
GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



Make sure to like,
follow and friend us on
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the latest happenings and
events!



April 18, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Good Friday

May 26, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Memorial Day

June 19, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Juneteenth