

Early Learning News

January, February, March 2022

JOY

In a New
Year!



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Take a Look Inside

We've got a new look for a new year! 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 central purpose of a human community is to care for children and *you* are the heart and soul of that purpose."

~ Carol Garboden Murray



Victoria recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as a GRECS Team Member! If you've seen her in training class, reading to children during a Literacy Initiative classroom visit or working in the Resource Place, you've probably noticed that she has a passion for early childhood education. Here are some things that you probably don't know about Victoria...

Victoria and her husband, Howard, have been married 27 years and have a beautiful 22 year old daughter, Anna. Both Victoria and Anna graduated from college in May 2020. Separate colleges and different degrees. Same graduation dates. Victoria is proud that it only took Anna 3 years to obtain her degree and likes to joke that it took her a little longer. We don't think Victoria's educational attainments are a laughing matter at all. In fact, she recently completed her Master's Degree coursework in December 2021. Way to go, Victoria!

Taking walks with Howard and baking are among Victoria's favorite things to do in her free time. In fact, when asked what one food she would eat unlimited amounts of if there were no negative consequences, her answer was "sweets"! What's her favorite sweet? Homemade Sour Cream Pound Cake. Lucky for us in the GRECS office, she likes to bake those sweets as well and sometimes shares with us.

Victoria also enjoys getting out in the community and exploring new places and events with family and friends. One place that brings her peace and joy is her cousin's screened-in back porch. It sits high in the tree line and overlooks beautiful trees where occasionally you can see eagles or owls flying by. Outdoors activities in nature, like walking at Dauphin Island's Bird Sanctuary, are something she enjoys immensely!



~Where joy Lives~

For almost 2 years now, we've all been experiencing struggles in one form or another. If this time has taught me anything, it's that there is joy to be found in the smallest pleasures. Things, people and places that I took for granted because they were so commonplace to me, now have new depth and meaning.

In our roles as early childhood professionals, children and families look to us as a trusted source. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to remember that happiness is not the result of circumstance, but rather it is a matter of choice.

A few months ago, GRECS team members were challenged to reflect on where joy lives in each of our own lives. Our hope as we begin a new year is that by taking the time to share what brings us joy will inspire you to look for joy in your own life and work.

Here are examples of where we find joy:

Family. Whether they be family by blood, marriage, or co-workers and friends that have become family. Family brings joy at times we don't expect and somehow when we need it the most. (Marc Knowles)



My joy lives in my four children. It does not matter what I am going through, they always have a way of making me smile no matter what. (Katasha Hughes)



The sound of rain. There is plenty of science behind why rain sounds bring about a sense of calm and relaxation. All I know is that it's peaceful, and where there is peace, there is also joy. (Jessica Stinson)



New Orleans, Louisiana - My birthplace! I love to go home and visit my family and friends. I go to the Levee, City Park, and the Lake Front just to name a few locations I go to relax. When I'm there it feels good to my soul. Just being in the city brings me "JOY" - all the laughter, eating, dancing, and singing, having all of that makes me forget about my difficulties. When I'm in my city I always get a Hot Sausage Po-Boy on French Bread, Pecan Candy, Candy Apple, Snowball, Gumbo, and some Red Beans. (Shajuane Cook)

Camping along the Alabama or Tombigbee Rivers. Camping with my family means relaxation, connecting with nature and recognizing the beauty of God's creation. When we go camping, we eat, laugh, recharge. (Vicki Giles)



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
First Baptist Church - Spanish Fort
Kids Plus CDC
Goodwill Community Center

Clarke County

Jackson City Hall

Conecuh County

David Burt Agriculture Center

Escambia County

Coastal Alabama Community College
Flomaton Public Library

Monroe County

Monroe County Public Library
Patty Pat's Daycare Center #2

Mobile County

GRECS Training Rooms #'s A, B, C, D

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

CCDF Health and Safety Courses 2022

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in January, February and March 2022!

- **January 7:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; 8:00a-1:00p; **Mobile**
- **January 13:** Preparing for Emergencies in the Child Care Setting CCDF: 7; 6:30p-8:30p; **Mobile**
- **January 26:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices; CCDF: 2, 6; 3:00p-5:00p; **Mobile**
- **February 1:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 5, 8; 5:30p-7:30p; **Spot for Tots, Chatham**
- **February 17:** Online Webinar: Infectious Disease Control; 6:00p-7:00p; **ALL Counties Webinar**
- **February 21:** Online Webinar: Medication Administration; 6:00p-7:00p; **ALL Counties Webinar**
- **March 7:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4; 12:00p-4:00p; **Mobile**
- **March 8:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 5, 6, 7; 12:00p-3:00p; **Mobile**
- **March 9:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 8, 9, 11; 12:00p-3:00p; **Mobile**
- **March 22:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 8:00a-1:00p; **Mobile**
- **March 23:** DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; 8:00a-1:00p; **Mobile**

Getting Started 2022



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.

(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: 5, 7, 13, 15, 20; Basic Training Level; 12 hours/1.2 CEUs; Appropriate for ALL Age Groups)

January 11-13, 2022 | March 15-17, 2022
8:30am-12:30pm
GRECS Training Room

www.greecs.org

You must attend all sessions and will receive credit in all DHR categories.

Super Saturday

January 22, 2022 | 8:00am-1:00pm | CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | GRECS Training Room, Mobile



Pamela Senters, RNC

In this 5 hour session, we will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting. Participants will discuss ways to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Use of Safe Sleep Practices as well as define common ways illnesses are spread in child care, identify situations which may require administration of medications and list the symptoms of allergies.

(Presenter: Pamela Senters, RNC; DHR: HSUP; Alabama Pathways; HSN; CDA: 1, 5, 6; CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Basic Training Level; 5 hours; Appropriate for ALL Age Groups)

Participants will receive 1 hour in each of the CCDF categories listed.

- **CCDF #1** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations,
- **CCDF #2** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices
- **CCDF #3** Administration of Medication
- **CCDF #4** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions
- **CCDF #5** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic

Special Delivery Courses

Please Contact: Hannah Presley

251-473-1060

hpresley@grecs.org

We are offering special delivery courses for the following sessions:

- Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Revised (**ITERS-R**)
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised (**ECERS-R**)
- Program Administration Scale (**PAS**)
- Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised (**FCCERS-R**)
- *** For Family Daycare Homes ONLY***
- Business Administration Scale (**BAS**)
- *** For Family Daycare Homes ONLY***

Please Contact Hannah Presley for more details on how you can schedule a training!

Online Sessions GRECS Webinars:

January, February & March Webinars:

- **February 17th** - Infectious Disease Control; 6:00p - 7:00pm
- **February 21st** - Medication Administration; 6:00p-7:00pm
- **February 22nd** - Being Strategic in the Midst of Conflict; 5:30p-7:30pm
- **March 3rd** - Did You Hear What I Said; 6:00pm-7:00pm
- **March 26th** - Minding Your Manners; 9:00am-11:00am

Go Online and Register Today!

All webinars are available for ALL COUNTIES and centers who are interested and are free of charge! Contact Hours will be offered for each session and can be found in your student profile upon completion

APT Winter 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 December 13, 2021

ALABAMA EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES: JANUARY 10, 2022 – FEBRUARY 28, 2022

STEM FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN: HAVING FUN WHILE BUILDING SKILLS: JANUARY 10, 2022 – FEBRUARY 21, 2022

ACES: UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES : JANUARY 17, 2022 – FEBRUARY 28, 2022

CHARACTER EDUCATION: LIFE'S LITTLE LESSONS WITH DANIEL TIGER AND FRIENDS: JANUARY 10, 2022 – FEBRUARY 28, 2022

On-Demand Courses

*WHO IS TAKING CARE OF YOU?

*ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS: THE ROLE OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

*RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN EARLY CHILD CARE

*I CAN HANDLE IT! PROMOTING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL SETTING

*FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH & SAFETY IN EARLY CHILD CARE

*CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS: WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

AND MORE!!!!

January TRAINING

January 3, 2022 | 8:30-10:30A 2hrs

A YES Environment: Promoting Positivity in Your Classroom

CCDF:15 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA:1, 3, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG  

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This training will provide participants with positive ways and strategies to promote in the classroom.

January 3, 2022 | 10:30a-12:30P 2hrs

The Visual Classroom: Increasing Student Confidence Using Visual Cues

CCDF:15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGfD | CDA:1, 3 | DHR: QCCL, PDG  

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Let's explore different kinds of visual cues that can help improve communication, transitions, choice-making, and attention to task.

January 6, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Introduction to the CDA Credential

CCDF:20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF 

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

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

January 7, 2022 | 8:00-1:00P 5hrs

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11

CCDF:6, 7, 8, 9, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

In this 5 hour session, we will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting.

January 11-13, 2022 | 8:30-12:30P 12hrs

Getting Started 2022

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff 

See Course Highlights Pg 4 for more information!

January 11, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Early Literacy, It's More Than ABC's

CCDF:20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA:2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD  

PRESENTER: Hannah Presley

Participants will gain information to better understand the importance of early literacy skills for infants and toddlers.

January 13, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Preparing for Emergencies in the Child Care Setting

CCDF:7 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1, 5 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This training will provide participants with ways to prepare for and recover from emergencies by identifying emergency helpers.

January 18, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Music to Our Ears: The Benefits of Music and Movement

CCDF:13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA:1, 5 | DHR: CD, LD  

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This training is designed to inform participants how music can stimulate infants' and toddlers' development (cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional).

January 19, 2022 | 9:00a-12:00P 3hrs

Director's Forum: Toy Box Leadership


CCDF:18, 20 | AL Pathways:PPD, MA | CDA:5, 6 | DHR:AM, CCPF 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles/Ann Sands

Participants will explore the basic ingredients necessary to be an effective leader of a quality program and to create a more effective workplace that maximizes team spirit and incorporates the best values of the playroom.

January 20, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

From Birth: The Reading Journey

CCDF:13, 16, 17, 20 | AL Pathways:CGD, ICFC, PPD| CDA: 2, 3, 6, 8 | DHR: CD, LD 

PRESENTER: Virginia Mostellar

This course explores the importance of relationships and interactions to promote language development in the journey from birth to reading readiness.

January 22, 2022 | 8:00-1:00P 5hrs

Super Saturday CCDF: 1-5

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC 

See Course Highlights on Pg 5 for more information!

January 24, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Toddlers and Challenging Behaviors: Why They Do It and How To Respond (APT)

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1,3,5,8 | DHR: PDG, CD  

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This training will provide information on the meaning behind challenging behaviors and offer suggestions to help care givers set age-appropriate limits.

January 25, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P 2hrs

Winter Wonders

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD  

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Do you ever wonder about Winter? Let's wonder together as we explore wintry weather, animal behaviors in winter and winter-themed process art activities.

January 26, 2022 | 3:00-5:00P 2hrs

Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome/ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention Safe Sleep


CCDF: 2, 6 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 2, 6 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

This session will provide participants with essential information on Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma in a child care setting.

January 27, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P 2hrs

Brain Builders: Creating a Rich Learning Environment for Growing Brains (APT)

CCDF: 13, 16, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, HSN | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD  

PRESENTER: APT Presenter

Let's talk about how we can create early experiences that nourish and build strong brain connections for a foundation of learning success.

January 31, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P 2hrs

Child Development Series: Language

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 2, 3, 6, 8 | DHR: LD, CD 

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

In this session, participants will discuss how to promote oral language development across the curriculum with reflection questions, a list of top resources and activities.

January 2022



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 A YES Environment: Promoting Positivity in Your Classroom; 8:30a-10:30a; Mobile</p> <p>The Visual Classroom: Increasing Student Confidence Using Visual Cues; 10:30a-12:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Introduction to CDA; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>7 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; 8:00a-1:00p; Mobile</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11 Getting Started (Day 1); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile</p> <p>Early Literacy, It's More Than ABC's; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>12 Getting Started (Day 2); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>13 Getting Started (Day 3); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile</p> <p>Preparing for Emergencies in the Child Care Setting CCDF: 7; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>17</p> <p>GRECS and EHS Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day</p>	<p>18 Music to Our Ears: The Benefits of Music and Movement; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>19 Director's Forum: Toy Box Leadership; 9:00a-12:00p; Mobile</p>	<p>20 From Birth: The Reading Journey; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Super Saturday CCDF: 1-5 8:00a- 1:00p GRECS Mobile</p>
<p>24 Toddlers and Challenging Behaviors: Why They Do It and How To Respond (APT); 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile</p>	<p>25 Winter Wonders; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile</p>	<p>26 Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices; CCDF: 2, 6; 3:00p-5:00p; Mobile</p>	<p>27 Brain Builders: Creating a Rich Learning Environment for Growing Brains (APT); 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>31 Child Development Series: Language ; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile</p>					<p>Class Age Appropriate Key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Infant Toddler PreSchool School Age

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

February 2022



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 DHR Health & Safety <i>CCDF</i> : 5, 8; 5:30p-7:30p; Spot for Tots, Chatham Get a Grip on Fine Motor Development; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	2	3 You are What You Eat: Nutrition for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	4	5
7 Supporting Cognitive Learning and Development for Infants and Toddlers; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	8 A Culturally Sensitive Classroom; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	9	10 Communicating Effectively With Parents; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile Language of Friends: Using Puppets and Literature to Build Social Skills; 6:00p-8:00p; Kids Plus CDC, Foley	11 Free Public Health and Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile	12
14	15 Granting Children Their Emotions; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	16	17 Online Webinar: Infectious Disease Control; 6:00p-7:00p; ALL Counties Webinar	18	19
21 Online Webinar: Medication Administration; 6:00p-7:00p; ALL Counties Webinar	22 Online Webinar: Being Strategic in the Midst of Conflict: Conflict Resolution and Bullying Prevention; 5:30p-7:30p; ALL Counties Webinar	23	24	25	26
28 GRECS and EHS Closed for Mardi Gras Holiday					Class Age Appropriate Key: All Infant Toddler PreSchool School Age

February TRAINING

February 1, 2022 | 5:30-7:30P 2hrs

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 5, 8

CCDF: 5, 8 | AL Pathways:HSN | CDA:1 | DHR:HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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. **Spots for Tots, Chatham**

February 1, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P 2hrs

Get a Grip on Fine Motor Development

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways:CGD,LEE, ICFC | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL 

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

The purpose of this course is to make participants more aware of ways to create a learning environment full of engaging gross motor activity to support fine motor development.

February 3, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

You Are What You Eat: Nutrition for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

CCDF:13 | AL Pathways:CGD, ICFC | CDA:2, 3 | DHR:CD, CCPF  

PRESENTER: Hannah Presley

In this training, these questions will be answered, and much more will be covered, featuring hands-on activities, engaging discussions, and books.

February 7, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Supporting Cognitive Learning and Development for Infants and Toddlers

CCDF:13 | AL Pathways:CGD, LEE | CDA:1, 3, 8 | DHR:CD, QCCL  

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course will explore the cognitive foundations and skills for infants and toddlers.

February 8, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

A Culturally Sensitive Classroom


CCDF:16 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV,ICFC | CDA:3, 4 | DHR:CD, CCPF 

PRESENTER: Virginia Mostellar

This course will explore the key elements and benefits of providing culturally-sensitive care in the early childhood classroom.

February 10, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Communicating Effectively With Parents

CCDF:16 | AL Pathways: PPD,ICFC | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR:CCPF 

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

Learn how to successfully communicate with parents! This training will provide participants with communication tools and strategies.

February 10, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P 2hrs

Language of Friends: Using Puppets and Literature to Build Social Skills

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways:CGD,LEE | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: LD, PDG 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

This session will explore ways to use puppets to allow kids to practice the language of conversation and empathy.

Kids Plus CDC, Foley

February 11, 2022 | 8:30-12:30P 4hrs

Free Public Health and Safety: First Aid and CPR Training

CCDF:10 | AL Pathways:HSN | CDA:1 | DHR:HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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).

February 15, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P 2hrs

Granting Children Their Emotions

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways:CGD,ICFC | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

In this session, we'll examine the consequences of ignoring children's feelings and the positive impacts of supportive responses to children's feelings.

February 17, 2022 | 6:00-7:00P 1hr

Online Webinar: Infectious Disease Control

CCDF: 1 | AL Pathways:HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR:HSUP 

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

In this information-filled session, you'll identify how you can prevent the spread of disease in early learning centers. **All Counties, Webinar**

February 21, 2022 | 6:00-7:00P 1hr

Online Webinar: Medication Administration



CCDF: 3 | AL Pathways:HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR:HSUP 

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

During this session, we will outline general guidelines for appropriate administration of medicines. **All Counties, Webinar**

February 22, 2022 | 5:30-7:30P 2hrs

Online Webinar: Being Strategic in the Midst of Conflict: Conflict Resolution and Bullying Prevention

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways:ICFC | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR:CD, PDG  

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa, Michelle Denney

This session will provide tools and strategies that youth and staff can use when conflicts arise. We will share activity ideas that promote cooperation and respect to help youth interact in positive ways. We will also talk about creating anti-bullying policies and communicating those policies and expectations clearly and concisely with youth, families, and staff. **All Counties, Webinar**




Register online: www.grecs.org

March TRAINING

March 3, 2022 | 6:00-7:00P

Online Webinar: Did You Hear What I Said?

CCDF:15, 20 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD | CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF 

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

In this workshop, participants will discover ways to communicate effectively and respectfully. **All Counties, Webinar**

March 7, 2022 | 12:00-4:00P

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4

CCDF:1, 2, 3, 4 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

This 4- hour training course will provide participants training in the following CCDF Training Areas:1,2,3,4

March 8, 2022 | 12:00-3:00P

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 5, 6, 7

CCDF: 5, 6, 7 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSN 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

In this 3 hour session, we will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting.

March 8, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P

Engaging Preschool Families

CCDF:16 | AL Pathways: ICFC, LEE | CDA:4 | DHR:CCPF, QCCL 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

In this session, we'll look at ways to plan for family engagement that really engages!

March 9, 2022 | 12:00-3:00P

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 8, 9, 11

CCDF:8, 9, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

In this 3 hour session, we will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting.

March 10, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

Talking to Children About Race and Racism (APT)

CCDF:16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, DIV | CDA:1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, CCPF 

PRESENTER: APT Staff

This training is a two-hour workshop designed to provide participants with resources to foster authentic, meaningful, and thought-provoking conversations with children about race and racism.

March 14, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

Autism 101: What Your Child Care Providers Need to Know

CCDF:13, 15 | AL Pathways: COA | CDA:2, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG 

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.

March 15-17, 2022 | 8:30-12:30P

Getting Started 2022

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff 

See Course Highlights Pg 4 for more information!

March 15, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

What is your PIECE? Professionalism in Early Childhood Education (APT)

CCDF:16 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA:4, 5 | DHR: CCPF 

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

In this training, we will take a deep dive into the components of professionalism the definition of a professional and the behaviors of a professional.

March 17, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

Primary Caregiving and Continuity of Care in the Infant and Toddler Setting

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV,ICFC | CDA:3, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG 

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This course will explore the concepts and benefits of primary caregiving and continuity of care in the infant and toddler setting.

March 22, 2022 | 8:00a-1:00P

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5


CCDF:1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC, GRECS Staff, Judy Cunningham

This 5- hour training course will provide participants training in the following CCDF Training Areas:1,2,3,4, 5

March 22, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P

Making the Connection Between Math and Art (APT)

CCDF:19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA:2, 3 | DHR:CD, LD 

PRESENTER: Hannah Presley

In this session, we'll look at ways to In this training, we will discover how to connect math and art!

March 23, 2022 | 8:00a-1:00P

DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11

CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA:1 | DHR: HSUP 

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC, GRECS Staff, Judy Cunningham

This 5- hour training course will provide participants training in the following CCDF Training Areas: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11

March 24, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

Understanding Temperament: Why It's Important for Infant/Toddler Caregivers

CCDF:13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV | CDA:3, 5 | DHR: CD, PDG 

PRESENTER: Virginia Mostellar

This course explores the idea that understanding a child's temperament tendencies helps infant and toddler caregivers build positive relationships with each child.

March 26, 2022 | 9:00-11:00A

Online Webinar: Minding Your Manners?

CCDF:13, 15 | AL Pathways: LEE | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR:PDG 

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This session will identify ways to support the development of social skills.. **All Counties, Webinar**

March 28, 2022 | 6:30-8:30P

Introduction to the CDA Credential

CCDF:20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF 

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

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

March 29, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

Cooking With Preschoolers: A Yearlong Journey in the Preschool Classroom Kitchen

CCDF:13, 19 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE | CDA:1, 2 | DHR:HSUP, CD 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

We'll explore appropriate cooking tools for preschoolers, seasonal recipes, and the benefits of providing cooking experiences in the classroom.

March 31, 2022 | 9:00a-12:00P

Strengthening Business Practices – Recruiting and Retaining Staff

CCDF:18 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 1, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF, AM 

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles/Ann Sands

The purpose of this training is to strengthen child care providers' understanding of staff recruitment tools, organizational staff support systems, and elements necessary to support retention of talented staff.

March 31, 2022 | 6:00-8:00P

It Isn't Rocket Science: Adding STEM to the Infant/Toddler Classroom

CCDF:20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CD 

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Children are natural explorers! Their curiosity is the foundation of exploring and learning. The beauty of STEM activities is that they just seem to happen naturally.



Register online: www.grecs.org

March 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 GRECS and EHS Closed for Mardi Gras Holiday	2	3 Online Webinar: Did You Hear What I Said?; 6:00p-7:00p; ALL Counties Webinar	4	5
7 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4; 12:00p-4:00p; Mobile	8 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 5, 6, 7; 12:00p-3:00p; Mobile Engaging Pre-school Families; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	9 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 8, 9, 11; 12:00p-3:00p; Mobile	10 Talking to Children about Race and Racism (APT); 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	11	12
14 Autism 101: What Your Child Care Providers Need to Know; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	15 Getting Started (Day 1); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile What is your PIECE? Professionalism in Early Childhood Education (APT); 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	16 Getting Started (Day 2); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile	17 Getting Started (Day 3); 8:30a-12:30p; Mobile Primary Caregiving and Continuity of Care in the Infant and Toddler Setting; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	18	19
21	22 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 8:00a-1:00p; Mobile Making the Connection Between Math and Art (APT); 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	23 DHR Health & Safety CCDF: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; 8:00a-1:00p; Mobile	24 Understanding Temperament: Why It's Important for Infant/Toddler Caregivers; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	25	26 Online Webinar: Minding Your Manners; 9:00a-11:00a; ALL Counties Webinar
28 Introduction to CDA; 6:30p-8:30p; Mobile	29 Cooking With Preschoolers: A Yearlong Journey in the Preschool Classroom Kitchen; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile	30	31 Strengthening Business Practices – Recruiting and Retaining Staff; 9:00a-12:00p; Mobile It Isn't Rocket Science: Adding STEM to the Infant/Toddler Classroom; 6:00p-8:00p; Mobile		<div> Class Age Appropriate Key:  All  Infant  Toddler  PreSchool  School Age </div>

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

Fine Motor Development

Gross Motor Play: The Back Story

Writing is one of the most complex skills a human being performs with their hands. Developmental readiness for writing starts with gross motor movement and play - not worksheets and pencils. Gross motor activities include, but are not limited to : plenty of outdoor play, running, jumping, swinging, bike-riding, ball play, dancing and crawling.

Establishing Hand Dominance

Encourage children's use of hands in play and daily activities where two hands are performing different jobs in order to develop hand dominance. Presenting toys and one-handed activities or implements at the midline allows young children to use the preferred hand to grasp and use the object spontaneously, which reinforces hand dominance.

Crossing the Midline

Crossing the midline indicates that the two sides of the brain are working with each other. Children's hands and arms cross the body in gross motor functional movements, such as wiping off a table, sweeping the floor. Performance of these activities is one of the first steps toward crossing the midline accurately in fine motor tasks, such as forming shapes and symbols.

Developing the Tripod Pencil Grasp

Efficient tripod pencil grasp involves three fingers working together to hold the pencil. They are helping to stabilize the child's hand so that the Busy Fingers can effectively hold and move a pencil, crayon, or tool. Before holding a pencil, children should practice the tripod grasp when using tweezers, tongs, or squeezers to sort or stack manipulatives.

Positioned for Success: Strategies to Try

1. Color code the thumbhole on scissors by wrapping it with tape in a contrasting color.
2. Tape paper to edge of desk or middle of easel so student can cut upwardly and make 'fringe.'
3. Have the child "hold" a small roll of paper towel or newspaper under the cutting arm to ensure that the arm stays in the correct position.
4. "Tummy Time" positioning automatically sets children up with successful positioning for using scissors.

Get a Grip On Fine Motor Development

Prior to grasping a pencil correctly and learning how to write efficiently, young children develop the skills needed for writing through engaging in a wide variety of hands-on play experiences with toys and tools and participating in activities of daily living, such as self-feeding, dressing, and performing hygiene tasks. As administrators, educators, and parents our role is to understand and facilitate appropriate fine motor development in order to support future writing performance of young children. Important prerequisites for writing include establishing hand dominance, the ability to cross the midline, and developing the tripod pencil grasp.

Writing is one of the most complex skills a human being performs with his or her hands. Developmental readiness for writing starts with gross motor movement and play—not worksheets and pencils!

~Marianne Gibbs



Tape paper to the wall for an instant vertical surface

Incorporate Vertical Surfaces

Try This:

- Chalkboard
- Easel
- Walls

Try Activities traditionally done at a table on a vertical surface for a new and more appropriate, experience for example.

- Coloring
- Stamping
- Playdough
- Shaving cream
- Velcro matching games
- Painting, etc...



Using non-paper media, such as playdough, is a great way to increase interest in learning how to cut with scissors

Scissor Skill Development

Try This:

- **Crumpling** - of paper is the first step toward cutting with scissors. When a child crumples paper they are establishing the needed motor planning for the "open-close" pattern required for using scissors.
- **Ripping** - the ripping action facilitates the tripod grasp with hands ripping the paper in opposite directions.
- **Snipping** - with scissors means that one cute does the job.
- **Cutting** - on curves can start on round paper plates. cutting on angles and complex patterns is most challenging.

Appropriate fine motor skills development contributes to increased legibility of handwriting, rate of written production, test scores, and overall level of confidence at school. **View more on this article about handwriting on [communityplaythings.com](https://www.communityplaythings.com)**

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 Minimum 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



Feeling Overwhelmed?

TAKE FIVE



1. Sit or stand still.
2. Listen for the farthest away sounds you can hear (traffic, birds) for 30 seconds.
3. Listen for the sounds in your building (children in the hall, a door closing) for 30 seconds.
4. Focus on sounds directly in your classroom (a ticking clock or humming fan) for 30 seconds.
5. Take the last 30 seconds to listen to your own breath.



United Way
of Southwest Alabama

Using New Communication Tools to Develop Family Partnerships

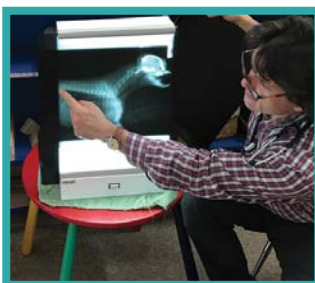
Teachers know there are many benefits to family engagement—support for early learning tops the list! In the past, programs often created print-based newsletters and tip sheets to send home information. Now, educators have new technology-based options available that make it easier to not only inform families but also involve them more deeply in their children's education.

A variety of new communication systems use technology to streamline the processes of organizing and sending photos, videos, audio recordings, website links, and text (with translation, if needed) to a family's mobile device or computer. The posts are readily available electronically for families to review—and in many systems, family members can send replies!

For busy early childhood education teachers looking for new ways to partner with families, these communication systems offer many options. We tried out these new systems in order to explore how a technology-based approach could extend children's learning and deepen family engagement. Here, we share our favorite strategies:

"MEETING" CLASSROOM

VISITORS - Sharing special guests' class visits can help families guide children in making connections between school, home, and community. In one classroom, when children were studying pets, the teacher invited a veterinarian to visit. The teacher took and shared photos and video clips of the visit. She then sent home a photo of an X-ray, with a challenge to extend the experience and conversation: "Can you guess what this dog ate? Record your answers together!"



INVITING CLOSE

OBSERVATIONS - Learning to observe closely is an important scientific skill with implications for literacy and math learning. In addition to using handheld magnifying lenses, in one class the children took magnified photos of their snack items with a digital Proscope microscope, which also projected images to a tablet. The teacher sent home the images and challenged families: "Can you find the snack that belongs to your child?" Introducing families to new tools children are using in the classroom can support closer observation and inquiry at home.



ENCOURAGING FAMILY

COLLABORATION - Posting projects for families to view creates opportunities for children and their families to work and learn together. In the block area, children were excited to share photos of their buildings and stories. They wanted to continue to improve their constructions because they knew their families could view them. One family member looked at a block structure/story and used the comment feature, wondering how people could get into the building. This inspired design corrections and a new building direction.

SENDING MESSAGES

HOME - Teachers can easily send digital messages to all parents or guardians in the group, such as alerts about upcoming school events or health issues and requests to bring things in. The posts are then available electronically for families to review as needed—no more digging through backpacks looking for handouts!

When you choose a communication system, it's important to identify access issues and look for solutions so all families can be involved. The preschool teachers in our group used the free digital portfolio system Seesaw, but there are many different family engagement systems available. They range in complexity, with a variety of features and prices. Asking families for feedback about their communication preferences to find out the kinds of information they would like to receive is a good place to start.

Courses Developed from the Program for Infants & Toddlers Guidelines.

February 7, 2022
6:30-8:30P

Supporting Cognitive Learning and Development for Infants and Toddlers

CCDF:13 | AL Pathways:CGD, LEE |
CDA:1, 3, 8 | DHR:CD, QCCL
PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course will explore the cognitive foundations and skills for infants and toddlers.

March 17, 2022
6:00-8:00P

Primary Caregiving and Continuity of Care in the Infant and Toddler Setting

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD,
DIV,ICFC | CDA:3, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG
PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This course will explore the concepts and benefits of primary caregiving and continuity of care in the infant and toddler setting.

March 24, 2022
6:00-8:00P

Understanding Temperament: Why It's Important for Infant/Toddler Caregivers

CCDF:13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV |
CDA:3, 5 | DHR: CD, PDG
PRESENTER: Virginia Mostellar

This course explores the idea that understanding a child's temperament tendencies helps infant and toddler caregivers build positive relationships with each child.

CPR and First Aid Training

On the second Saturday of every month, our friends at Complete Safety Works are offering Heart Saver First Aid and Adult, Child & Infant CPR/AED training!

You must register through and make payment to Complete Safety Works

First Aid - \$45 | CPR - \$45

Both First Aid & CPR - \$55

Contact Complete Safety Works for more info.

90 N Sage Avenue Mobile, AL
251-479-6788



The Resource Place

Call and make your appointment to visit us!



Support Children's Trust Fund

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.

3100 Cottage Hill Road, Building 4, Suite 400, Mobile, AL 36606

Ph. 251.473.1060 Fax 251.473.1084

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latest happenings and
events!**



**SAVE
THE DATE!**

January 17th, 2022
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED in
honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 28 & March 1st
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Mardi Gras Holiday