

Early Learning News

October, November and December 2023



Gather



THE MAGIC OF READING
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**WHAT ARE THE BASIC
PRINCIPLES**
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MATH PLAY WITH LOOSE PARTS
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**ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL
NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY**
pg 18

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!

Magic of Reading

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Nature
is a tool to get
children to
experience not just
the wider world, but
themselves.

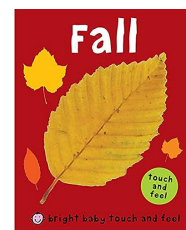
– Stephen Moss

Exploring the Magic of Reading: Seasonal Book Recommendations for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers (October–December)

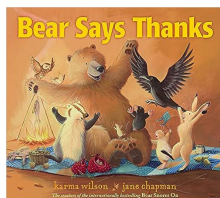
As the leaves turn vibrant hues and a crispness fills the air, the holiday season draws near, casting its enchanting spell upon young hearts and minds. What better way to celebrate the months of October, November, and December with your little ones than through the joy of reading? Delving into the world of books with your infants, toddlers, and preschoolers can foster a lifelong love for learning and creativity. Here are some delightful book recommendations tailored to each age group, capturing the spirit of the seasons.

October: Infants

For infants, October is a time of sensory exploration. As they begin to discover the world around them, captivating board books with bold colors, textures, and simple words can engage their senses and stimulate their cognitive development. Consider titles like "Baby's First Halloween" or "Touch and Feel: Fall" which showcase the tactile wonders of autumn leaves and cozy sweaters. These interactive books create a bonding experience between parent and child, igniting curiosity and delight.



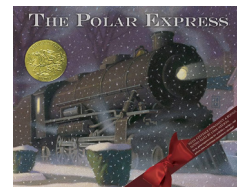
November: Toddlers



Toddlers are curious adventurers, eager to explore the world's mysteries. This November, introduce them to stories that teach valuable lessons about gratitude, friendship, and sharing. Classics like "The Thankful Book" by Todd Parr or "Bear Says Thanks" by Karma Wilson are heartwarming choices that embody the spirit of Thanksgiving. With colorful illustrations and relatable characters, these tales can spark discussions about emotions and the importance of kindness.

December: Preschoolers

As December brings twinkling lights and the anticipation of winter holidays, preschoolers are ready for tales that evoke wonder and imagination. Classic fairy tales like "The Gingerbread Man" or "The Polar Express" are perfect choices, transporting young readers to magical realms where cookies come to life and trains journey to the North Pole. These stories encourage cognitive development through imaginative play and introduce themes of courage and friendship.



The Power of Shared Reading

No matter the age, shared reading experiences have a profound impact on children's language development, emotional understanding, and cognitive skills. Use these months as an opportunity to create cherished memories by reading aloud, discussing characters and plots, and encouraging your child's questions and interpretations.

In this season of transformation and celebration, immerse your little ones in the magic of storytelling. As you look through the pages of these recommended books, you're not just reading words – you're nurturing their growing minds and hearts. So, cozy up with a book and let the enchantment of reading illuminate your October, November, and December days.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES?

SCIENCE SHOWS THAT 80% OF BRAIN GROWTH HAPPENS BY THE AGE OF THREE! Beginning from birth, young brains develop like little muscles, getting bigger and stronger the more you and your family interact with your child.

The Basics Principles are five fun, simple, and powerful ways to help all our children aged 0-3 grow to be happy and smart.

**DO ALL FIVE PRINCIPLES EVERY DAY TO HELP YOUR CHILD
BECOME THE AMAZING PERSON YOU KNOW THEY CAN BE.**

Maximize Love, Manage Stress

Babies and toddlers thrive when their world feels loving, safe, and predictable. Respond with smiles, words, and touch to help them see, hear, and feel your love. You will help them develop a sense of security and self-control.

Talk, Sing, and Point

Babies learn language from the moment they are born. Respond to their sounds, and later, their words. Connect with eye contact and a loving tone of voice, while pointing to help the know what you are talking about.

Count, Group, and Compare

Every child's brain is wired for math. Talk about numbers, shapes, patterns, and comparisons as you go about your routines together. Watch your child learn to love math.

Explore Through Movement and Play

Babies are like scientists who love making discoveries. Watch to see what interests your child, then encourage their curiosity and help them learn when they play and explore.

Read and Discuss Stories

Reading turns kids into confident thinkers. Make books a regular part of your relationship from the very beginning. With infants, point at the pictures and speak with excitement. With toddlers, just make it fun.

Who Is Involved?

Lots of people! Partners include hospitals, health centers, schools, community centers, childcare providers, churches, family members, and others.

What If I'm Not a Parent?

You still care about children! Learn about The Basics principles. Encourage parents and caregivers to make sure their children experience all five with everyone who cares for them.

How Can I Learn More?

Visit <http://uwsa.org/thebasics> or connect with us on social media for information on the campaign, opportunities in your community, tips, and videos.

New Locations for Professional Development Training

GRECS has added new training locations this quarter! We offer our training sessions in 6 counties in Alabama, as well as, special deliveries and webinars to reach our participants and students! We will continue to grow and add more locations, so please make note of the time and location of the session when registering for training classes! We will provide the correct address to ensure that you will always know where to go! This past year, GRECS Main Office and Professional Development Center have moved to a new location, so be sure to navigate your way to our new facility!

Washington County Public Library Large Training Room

14102 St. Stephens Ave.,
Chatom, AL 36518

Monroe County Public Library - Monroeville

121 Pineville Rd #1857, Monroeville, AL 36460

The Learning Tree, "At First Fairhope", Fairhope

300 South Section Street
Fairhope, AL 36532



WASHINGTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 Daycare 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 2023

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in October, November and December 2023!

- **October 3:** Who is Taking Care of YOU? Caregivers need attention too!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **October 4:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **October 4:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **October 4:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **October 11:** Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe during the Holidays (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **October 19:** Sweet Dreams! Nurturing Healthy Sleeping Habits (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **November 2:** Free Public Health and Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **November 4:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; **Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville**
- **December 11:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; **Mobile**
- **December 11:** Administration of Medication CCDF #3; 10:00am-11:00am; **Mobile**
- **December 11:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 11:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **December 14:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**



Getting Started

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

You must attend all sessions to receive credit.

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

October 24 - October 26, 2023 | 12:00pm - 4:00pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

New Time!

Highlighted Courses

October, November, December 2023

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

October 16, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Dr. Abigail Baxter

Director's Forum: Amplify Family Engagement and Student Success through Communication and Collaboration

November 8, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am | Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

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

December 5, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Paula Reese

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

December 6, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Olivia Brown

Rhyme, Rhythm, and Repetition: The Three R's of Preschool Literacy

December 7, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Vicki Giles



**Scan now to register
for GRECS Courses**

APT Fall Online Training

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

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

Registration opens on their website

September 4th, 2023



Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) *October 2 - November 20, 2023*

ACEs: Understanding and Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences *October 2 - October 23, 2023*

Character Education: Life's Little Lessons with Daniel Tiger and Friends *October 2 - October 23, 2023*

Essentials of High-Quality Early Care and Education *October 30 - November 20, 2023*

Kindergarten Readiness: Essential Math Skills for Preschoolers *October 30 - November 20, 2023*

APT's Online Facilitated Courses are free and are led by an APT online trainer. Upon completion participants receive a certificate for 15-18 training hours depending on the training.

- Foundations of Health & Safety in Early Child Care
- Challenging Behaviors: Where Do We Begin?
- Music to Our Ears: The Benefits of Music and Movement
- Alabama Historical Heroes
- Who is Taking Care of YOU?
- Attachment Styles: How to Bond with Babies
- Fostering Healthy Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood
- School Readiness: Creating Life-Long Learners
- Read, Read, Read: The Importance of Reading to Young Children
- Maintaining a Safe Child Care Setting: Ensuring Building & Hazardous Materials Safety
- Keeping Infants Safe: Prevention of Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) & Shaken Baby Syndrome in the Child Care Setting
- Caring for Our Children: Managing Infectious Diseases & Safely Administering Medications
- Growing Bodies: Promoting Physical Development for School-Aged Children
- Engaging Parents and Families for Children's Positive Development
- Best Practices for Language Acquisition: Read, Write, Talk Sing & Play
- The Science of Reading for School-Aged Children
- Emergency Preparedness & Basic First Aid and CPR - CCDF 7 & 10
- Early Math Success: Essential Math Skills for Infants & Toddlers *Available 11/13/23

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!



Online Sessions GRECS Webinars:

October, November, and December 2023 Webinars:

- **December 1st** -Introduction to the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA); 12:00pm-1:00pm

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



Alabama

ITSN

Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network

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

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

A member of AITSN will contact you after completion.



Strategies for Supporting Toddlers with Autism

Tuesday, October 10 -- 6-8:00 p.m. via zoom

Join AEIS Autism Mentors to learn evidence-based strategies that support communication, social interaction, and positive behaviors in children in the early childhood classroom with, or suspected of having, autism. Attendance at the two-hour training session will be followed by monthly small group discussions with and ongoing support from the trainers.

To register, scan:



visit: <https://forms.gle/tjWMUV1LjSpCdBd46>



Questions regarding registration should go to Amanda Bell at abell@ches.ua.edu.



Save the Date!

1st Annual Infant Toddler Conference

January 27, 2024

The University of Alabama
Bryant Conference Center

face-to-face and virtual option



October '23 TRAINING

Who is Taking Care of YOU? Caregivers Need Attention Too!

October 3, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD, HSN | CDA: 1, 6 | DHR: HSUP, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Self-care is not selfish. You can't take care of others unless you take care of YOU. It's about making choices about how to most effectively spend your time and energy so that you can give to others. This training is for YOU! Together we will explore what you can do to take care of yourself, recognize your limits, and accept yourself.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF #1

October 4, 2023 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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.

A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4

October 4, 2023 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting. Participants will discuss the Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions.

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

October 4, 2023 | 10:30am-11:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting. 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.

Supporting Cognitive Learning and Development for Infants and Toddlers

October 5, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course will explore the cognitive foundations and skills of infants and toddlers. Participants will be able to identify cognitive development typically acquired from birth to 3 years.

Sand and Water Exploration

October 10, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

Join in on this interactive session where you will learn the many benefits of sand and water play for young children and strategies for encouraging children's sensory play.

Creating an Environment for Every Child to Be Successful (CTF)

October 10, 2023 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Theresa Patterson

During this session participants will work with different scenarios and materials to create a quality classroom environment and discuss how to reenergize/revamp classrooms to be inviting and safe for children.

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

October 11, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

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

Meaningful Experiences: Schedules and Routines for Toddlers and Preschoolers

October 12, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: PDG, CD | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This course is designed to identify effective ways to implement flexible schedules and routines into your classroom, and to identify strategies for providing individualized experiences that promote children's skill development.

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

October 13, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel McIntosh

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.

October '23 TRAINING

It's Tummy Time (CTF)

October 14, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This training will explain the benefits of tummy time and provide practical activities to enhance tummy time for babies.

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

October 16, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

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

Early Learners: Building Inclusive and Welcoming Spaces

October 17, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Olivia Brown

Creating Welcoming Spaces goes beyond just the physical environment. Throughout the course, participants will delve into various topics that contribute to building a positive and supportive educational space for young learners.

Sweet Dreams! Nurturing Healthy Sleeping Habits (APT)

October 19, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 2, 16, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD | CDA: 1, 2 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

In this two-hour workshop, we will examine the role of families and caregivers in ensuring successful sleep for children. Come discuss safe sleep practices, how sleep develops as children grow, strategies for overcoming sleep challenges, and how to foster good sleep habits.

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

October 23, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This introduction is designed for any early childhood educator considering applying for the CDA credential.

Active Supervision of Children (CTF)

October 24, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: HSN, ICFC | CDA: 1, 5 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

In this session, we will develop an understanding of effective supervision for creating a safe early childhood environment.

Getting Started 2023 (CTF)

October 24-26, 2023 | 12:00pm-4:00pm 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, CCPF, LD, QCCL, PDG, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe environments, nurturing interactions and 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' training requirements to work in child care. **You must attend all sessions to receive credit.**

Guidance! Not Discipline (CTF)

October 26, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Promoting positive behavior can be challenging. Having a variety of guidance strategies can make it more achievable to create a positive classroom environment.

November '23 TRAINING

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

November 1, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel McIntosh

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.

First-Aid and CPR Training

November 2, 2023 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

This training will 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.

The Power of MUSIC in Early Childhood

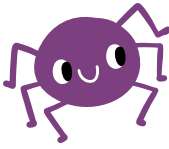







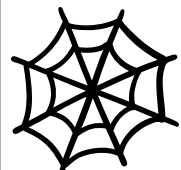


November 2, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

The Power of MUSIC will 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.

October 2023

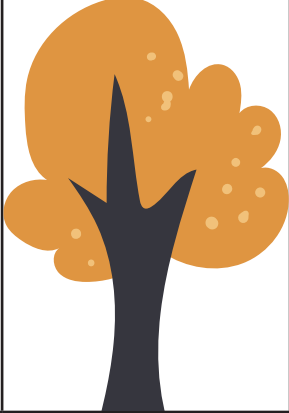








Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> 	<p>3 Who is Taking Care of YOU? Care-givers need attention too!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>4 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</p> <p>A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 10:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>5 Supporting Cognitive Learning and Development for Infants and Toddlers; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>9</p>	<p>10 Sand and Water Exploration; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> <p>Creating an Environment for Every Child to be Successful (CTF); 5:30pm-7:30pm; Washington County Public Library-large training room</p>	<p>11 Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe during the Holidays (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>12 Meaningful Experiences: Schedules and Routines for Toddlers and Preschoolers; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>13 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>14 It's Tummy Time (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> 
<p>16 Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>17 Early Learners: Building Inclusive and Welcoming Spaces; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19 Sweet Dreams! Nurturing Healthy Sleeping Habits (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>23 Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>24 Getting Started (Day 1); 12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p> <p>Active Supervision of Children (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>25 Getting Started (Day 2); 12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>26 Getting Started (Day 3); 12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p> <p>Guidance! Not Discipline (CTF); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Happy Halloween</p>				

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

November 2023



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	2 Free Public Health and Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile The Power of MUSIC in Early Childhood; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	3	4 Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville 
6 Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	7 Spark Curiosity and Interest through STEM; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	8 Director's Forum: Amplify Family Engagement and Student Success through Communication and Collaboration; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile 	9 Communicating Through the Holidays; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	10	11 
13 Embrace the Mess!; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	14 There's No App To Replace Your Lap: Reading to Infants and Toddlers; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	15	16 Toddlers as Investigators; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	17	18
20 	21	22	23 GRECS and EHS Closed for Thanksgiving 	24	25
27	28 More than 1,2,3... What is Early Numeracy? (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree, Fairhope Motions and Movements (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	29	30 More than 1,2,3... What is Early Numeracy? (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile		

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

November '23 TRAINING

Continued..

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (CTF)

November 4, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 11 | AL Pathways: HSN, ICFC | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library - 121 Pineville Rd #1857, Monroe-ville, AL 36460

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This training 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.

Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF)

November 6, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

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

Spark Curiosity and Interest through STEM

November 7, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2 | DHR: LD, CD | Pre-schoolers, School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Children construct knowledge through observation, exploration, and experimentation. STEM learning uses teachable moments and children's natural curiosity to build knowledge through developing children's inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. By cultivating these critical skills teachers can positively influence children's learning in the STEM disciplines. Join us to discover resources and strategies to prepare children for school and beyond.

Director's Forum: Amplify Family Engagement and Student Success through Communication and Collaboration

November 8, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16, 19 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 2, 3, 4 | DHR: CCPF, QCCL | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Childcare and afterschool professionals can build parents' knowledge and confidence and serve as an important liaison between families and regular school day staff. Join us as we discuss strategies for encouraging open, two-way conversation between parents and educators and providing essential resources by connecting families to community services and supports. Celebrate what is good about your current family engagement framework and discover how you can amplify it to a new level!

Communicating Through the Holidays

November 9, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Effectively communicating with families, co-workers, and administrators can be a difficult balancing act. In this workshop, participants will discover ways to communicate effectively and respectfully in order to better navigate challenging conversations, explore realistic ways of managing expectations, and examine the ways in which professional relationships can be positively promoted and maintained in the child care setting.

Embrace the Mess!

November 13, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CCPF, CD | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Anyone who works with young children knows that it is messy work. There will always be physical messes, social messes, emotional messes, and cognitive messes. Your schedule will get messed up, your lesson plans will get messed up and perhaps your notion of what it is to be a 'teacher' will get messed up, too. Let's come together and figure out how to embrace the mess!

There's No App To Replace Your Lap: Reading to Infants and Toddlers

November 14, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Participants will gain an understanding of what types of books are appropriate for this age and how to incorporate reading throughout the day to the children in their care.

Toddlers as Investigators

November 16, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, COA | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: LD, CD | Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Come learn how to use the emergent curriculum to create toddler rooms filled with exploration and curiosity.

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

November 28, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Pre-schoolers | Basic | The Learning Tree at "First Fairhope", Fairhope

PRESENTER: Olivia Brown

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 resources and children's books.

Motions and Movements (APT)

November 28, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: APT Staff

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

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

November 30, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Olivia Brown

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 resources and children's books.

December '23 TRAINING

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

December 1, 2023 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel McIntosh

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.

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential | Webinar

December 1, 2023 | 12:00pm-1:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This introduction is designed for any early childhood educator considering applying for the CDA credential.

Bolster Executive Functioning Skills to Prepare Kids for School and Beyond

December 4, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Do you have students who struggle with self-regulation and impulse control? What about organization and time management? These and other executive functioning skills are important aspects of early learning and development. Join us as we share practical, age-appropriate strategies for promoting and coaching the development of executive functioning skills for children of all ages, thus setting students up for social and academic success.

Little Books for Little Cooks (CTF)

December 5, 2023 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Theresa Patterson

Cooking can help develop life skills such as reading, math concepts, literacy concepts and ways to boost self-confidence as it relates to healthy eating habits. Cooking can also enhance their skills in science, art, and social studies.

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

December 5, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

To explore Nursery rhymes as a support for language acquisition and speech development. To develop auditory skills such as discriminating between sounds, speech patterns, words and music.

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

December 6, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Olivia Brown

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.

Rhyme, Rhythm, and Repetition: The Three R's of Pre-school Literacy

December 7, 2023 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/ 0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Pre-schoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Rhyme, rhythm and repetition tickle our ears and bring us back to favorite books, songs, and games over and over again. More importantly, these elements of preschool literacy are the basics of learning language and contribute to reading success.

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

December 11, 2023 | 9:00am-10:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Participants will discuss ways to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Use of Safe Sleep Practices.

Administration of Medication CCDF #3

December 11, 2023 | 10:00am-11:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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

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

December 11, 2023 | 11:00am-12:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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.

CPR and First Aid Refresher








December 14, 2023 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Did you know? DHR recommends that you should take a CPR and First Aid refresher course every 12 months after your initial certification. It is the halfway point between your original certification and when you are required to renew so it's a pretty good rule to follow. This session provides participants with the CCDF category for the CPR refresher, 10R. 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.

December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1 Alabama Quality STARS: <i>Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; 12:00pm-1:00pm; Webinar</p>	2
<p>4 Bolster Executive Functioning Skills to Prepare Kids for School and Beyond; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>5 Little Books for Little Cooks (CTF); 5:30pm-7:30pm; Washington County Public Library-large training room</p> <p>Let's Rock a Rhyme That's Right on Time; Nursery Rhymes in the 21st Century; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>6 Stuck Like Glue: Healthy Attachment for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>7 Rhyme, Rhythm, and Repetition: The Three R's of Pre-school Literacy; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>8</p> 	9
<p>11 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile</p> <p>Administration of Medication CCDF #3; 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 11:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>12</p>  	13	<p>14 CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</p>	15	16
18	19	20	21	<p>22</p> 	23
<p>25 GRECS and EHS Closed for Christmas Day</p> <p><i>Merry</i> CHRISTMAS</p>	26	27	28	29	30

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



Math Play with Loose Parts

Outside our window stands a large Tulip Poplar tree. In spring, petals rain from its yellow and orange blossoms. In summer, it shades the yard with green leaves. And in fall, crunchy brown leaves and tiny cones blankets the ground. This one tree provides an abundant supply of natural loose parts for young children gather and explore. Simon Nicholson first coined the term “Loose Parts” to describe objects in an environment that are open-ended, inspiring creativity and discovery.

Natural materials like leaves, sticks, flowers, rocks, pinecones, feathers, and shells can be found in backyards, playgrounds, and parks surrounding our homes and schools. These natural loose parts are accessible in almost every neighborhood, and mostly can be gathered for free, making them a perfect material for teaching.

One area of early learning particularly suited for the use of these materials is math. Natural loose parts can be used in a multitude of mathematical ways. An assortment of pinecones can be used for classifying, sorting, and counting. Leaves can be used to investigate shape and symmetry. Rocks can be measured and compared by weight or size. All the foundational areas of early math can be explored in a playful way using natural loose parts.



Here are a few ideas for outdoor math play using natural loose parts:

- Create shapes using twigs, sticks or pods. Try to make triangles that are different sizes and shapes. Challenge yourself to make a hexagon or an octagon.
- Go on a nature hunt using an egg tray to collect your findings. Ask the child to place one item in each cup, thus reinforcing their one to one correspondence.
- Search for four-leaf clovers in the grass. Children may show their early ability to subitize as they quickly scan a patch of three leaf clovers, searching for the lucky one with four leaves.
- Sort seashells or other natural materials by variety, size, color, or shape. Then mix them back together and sort in another way.
- Cut leaves in half and ask children to put the pieces back together. Ask the child to consider which half matches the other and how they know they are right.
- Puddle paint. Practice writing numbers using paintbrushes and water on concrete.

Sorting



Forming Shapes



Counting



To read more about “Math Play with Loose Parts” visit 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 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



Have You Heard?

GRECS is taking early learning to the airwaves.



SUBSCRIBE



Launching in Fall 2023

Upcoming Community Events

Come by the GRECS booth at LODA Artwalk for family friendly fun and early learning resources on the second Friday of every month from 6pm - 9pm.

**Oct.
13**

Hispanic Heritage Month

Wear your Halloween costume & visit the KidsZone to decorate your very own pumpkin!

**Nov.
10**

Native American Heritage Month

Crafts and photo ops in the KidsZone;
Performances by the Medicine Tail Singers
6-7 pm and 7:45-8:30 pm.

**Dec.
8**

Celebrate Christmas!

Dress up in your favorite holiday wear and partake in Christmas Karaoke in the square!
There will be lots of dancing, singing, photo ops, and of course Santa.





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



Lift them higher with quality early
care and education.



334-604-6260



info@alabamaqualitystars.org

The Bright Beginnings Project

The Bright Beginnings Project families and children are enrolled in the comprehensive center based early learning programs provided in the GRECS Early Head Start classrooms. In addition, families of children enrolled in other infant-toddler classrooms at our child care center partner centers are also invited to participate. Many thanks to our friends at PNC, to all of the families for their enthusiastic response, and to the staff for their part in making this project such a success!

Goal 1 - Families of infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) will be engaged in activities that support their child's healthy development and early school readiness.

Goal 2 - Family engagement activities are strength based and support the child's parents/ family as their most important advocate and teacher.

Goal 3 - Parents/families gain closer connection to their child's educational experience, by sharing activities they do at home with teachers and with family engagement staff!

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!

Tap Tap Tap the *Magical* world of books

Tell about the book & specific words.

Act out words. Ask questions about the story.

Point to words & pictures as you read.

For more info and instruction...

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ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

Benefits for Child Care Centers, Family and Group Home Providers

Availability

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

Reimbursement

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

Inclusion Support

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



About the Subsidy

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

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



The Resource Place

at  **GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services**

Call today to make your appointment with us!

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

**Children's Books * Teacher Resource Books* Outdoor Play Materials*
Manipulatives* Puzzles* Puppets* Big Books * Laminating Machine *
Bulletin Board Paper and More!!!!**

Call 251- 473-1060
Open: Daily | 9am-4pm

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

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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!

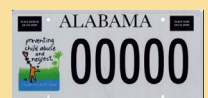


Support Children's Trust Fund

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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events!



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



November 23, 2023
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Thanksgiving Day

December 25, 2023
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Christmas Day