

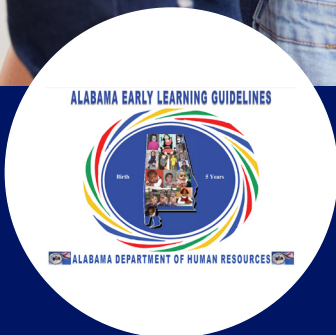
# Early Learning News

January, February, March 2024

**LOVE**



**HEALTHY HABITS FOR THE NEW  
YEAR!**  
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**ALABAMA EARLY LEARN-  
ING GUIDELINES**  
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**VALUING DIVERSITY**  
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**ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL  
NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY**  
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# Take a Look Inside

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

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

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

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**Don't just  
Tell  
children about the  
world.**

**Show them.**

**– Penny Whitehouse**

# Healthy Habits for the New Year!

Healthy habits are important life skills. They include selecting nutritious foods, practicing good hygiene, engaging in regular physical activity, focusing on positive feelings, and getting plenty of sleep. As an educator, you can help young children start developing these healthy habits in fun and engaging ways!

## Nutritious Foods

It's never too early to have conversations about good nutrition. Engage in discussions about the benefits of different foods to help children become more conscious of their diets and make informed decisions about what they choose to eat.

**Story Time or Songs:** Read books or sing songs about healthy eating. There are many children's books and songs that talk about fruits, vegetables, and the importance of a balanced diet. This helps reinforce the idea of healthy eating in a fun and interactive way.



## Good Hygiene

Hygiene helps us keep our bodies clean and healthy, which positively impacts our social and emotional health. The following activity gives children the opportunity to practice effective hygiene routines through a fun, active game.

**Handwashing Relay:** Create a relay race where kids have to run to a "washing station," properly wash their hands (with supervision and guidance), and then tag the next teammate. This game makes handwashing fun and emphasizes the importance of doing it thoroughly.

## Positive Feelings

As a teacher, you know that one of your main goals is to help children become aware of their emotions and to be mindful of how to appropriately express them. Creating a feelings flip-book gives children an opportunity to identify and reflect on scenarios that spark their emotions.



**Feelings flip-book:** Give each child a piece of paper (or, if more appropriate for your specific age group, prepare the flip-books in advance so the children can begin at the drawing step). Fold the paper lengthwise. On the top half of the paper, cut three slits, creating four flaps. Write a feeling (happy, sad, frustrated) on each flap. Underneath each flap, draw a picture that expresses that feeling.

Healthy habits are essential from childhood through adulthood, and as educators, we have many opportunities to inspire children to make informed choices. Instilling healthy habits at an early age sets up young children for leading active and balanced lives.

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# Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines were developed to promote continuity of high-quality care and learning for children ages 0-5. The AELG course serves as a guide for understanding child development and for implementing best practices to prepare children for success in school and in life. Participants who complete this course will receive 18 training hours and the official AELG Credential issued by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. This course may only be completed once. If you have received this credential through AELG face-to-face training or the online version, you will not receive credit again. (CDA Content Areas: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 | DHR Categories: CD, CCPF, HSUP, LD, PDG, QCCL | Alabama Pathways to Quality and Education Core Areas: CGD, COA, DIV, HSN, ICFC, LEE, MA, PPD | CCDF: 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20)

**You must attend**

**Session 1: Orientation before taking any other session.**

**March 6, 2024 (Day 1)**

**8:30am-3:30pm**

- Session 1 – Orientation
- Session 2 – Observations and Assessment
- Session 3 – The Role of Parent and Caregiver

**March 13, 2024 (Day 2)**

**8:30am-3:30pm**

- Session 4 – Self-Concept and Emotional Development
- Session 5 – Social Development
- Session 6 – Language and Literacy

**March 20, 2024 (Day 3)**

**8:30am-3:30pm**

- Session 7 – Physical Development
- Session 8 – Cognitive Development
- Session 9 – Putting It All Together



**Scan now to register!**

**If you have taken any AELG Sessions within the last year but missed a session, you can register, attend and make up those classes to complete and receive your AELG Credential!**

## 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)

**January 23-25, 2024 | 12:00pm - 4:00pm**  
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**New Time!**

## Special Delivery Courses

**Please Contact: Vicki Giles**

**251-473-1060**

**[vgiles@grecs.org](mailto: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!**

## 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](http://www.grecs.org)

# CCDF Health and Safety Courses 2024

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in January, February and March 2023!

- **January 4:** Free Public Health and Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **January 10:** Keeping Children Safe CCDF:4, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **January 16:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **January 16:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **January 16:** Administration of Medication CCDF #3); 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **January 27:** Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care; 9:30am-11:30am; **Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room**
- **February 1:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 1:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 1:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF#6; 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 6:** Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **February 15:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 15:** Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF#8; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 15:** Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF#9; 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **February 22:** You Are What You Eat!: Nutrition for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **February 24:** Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care; 9:30am-11:30am; **Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette**
- **March 6:** Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **March 12:** Who is Taking Care of YOU? Caregivers Need Attention Too!; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **The Learning Tree, Fairhope**
- **March 19:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 12:00pm-4:00pm; **Mobile**
- **March 20:** Playground Safety CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **March 28:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **March 28:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF# 11; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**



# Highlighted Courses

## January, February and March 2024

Navigating Circumstances: What Kids are Facing Today (APT)

January 4, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Jade Young

Exploring Diversity and Differences in the Classroom

February 1, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | LaDanika York

Talking to Children About Race and Racism (APT)

February 15, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | APT Staff

Culturally Sensitive Classroom

February 20, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Vicki Giles

Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Lasting Impact

February 21, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Jason Bryant



**Scan now to register  
for GRECS Courses**

## 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 11, 2023

**Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)** *January 8 - February 26, 2024*

**Kindergarten Readiness: Approaches to Play for Preschoolers** *January 8 - January 29, 2024*

**CDA Credential: An Introduction** *January 8 - January 29, 2024*

**Exploring Literacy Development with PBS KIDS!** *February 5- February 26, 2024*

**STEM For the Preschool Classroom** *February 5 - February 26, 2024*

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. Participants will continue to register for all online training opportunities through our website, <https://aptv.org/education/learn-online/>. Please contact Lisa Nunn at [lnunn@aptv.org](mailto:lnunn@aptv.org) for more information.

- 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
- *Implementing STEM Practices Through Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes* \*Available 1/22/24



# January '24 TRAINING

## First-Aid and CPR Training

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

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

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.

## Navigating Circumstances: What Kids are Facing Today (APT)

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

CCDF: 19 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 3 | DHR: CCPF | School-agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Jade Young**

These are challenging times for kids. Many kids are faced with not being accepted, bullying, lacking proper housing or food and many more social issues. This training will address some of those challenges circumstances using videos and discussions.

## Outdoor Adventures

**January 9, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 5, 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Vicki Giles**

Through these Outdoor Adventures, you will help children discover the world as a place of wonder, a place worth learning about, a place worth caring for and protecting. We will also explore ways to keep students safe during outdoor experiences.

## Keeping Children Safe CCDF: 4, 7

**January 10, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs**

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

**PRESENTER: Avery Fick**

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

## Director's Forum: Work Smarter, Not Harder: Record Keeping and Financial Management

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

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

**PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney**

Organization a problem? Join us for ideas about how to streamline your registration and record keeping using programs such as Excel and Google Docs. Learn strategies for tracking income and expenses and managing budgetary constraints in a systematic way.

## Rain or Shine, It's Playtime! Finding Fun on Rainy Days

**January 11, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney**

Stuck inside on a rainy day? This session will fill your toolbox with ideas to keep kids happy, active, engaged, and learning while developing important social skills such as teamwork and cooperation along the way.

## Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF #1

**January 16, 2024 | 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.

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

**January 16, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 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

**January 16, 2024 | 10:30am-11:30am 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.

## Storytelling in Early Childhood Setting

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

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, LD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith**

Come learn fun ways to tell stories! This course is designed to provide information on the importance of storytelling and the role it plays in language and cognitive development.

## Nurturing Young Minds: Promoting Creative Expression

**January 17, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 4, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Olivia Brown**

Join for a dynamic and interactive class designed to enhance your skills and knowledge in promoting creative expression in the early years.

## Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment for Early Childhood Settings

**January 18, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: Jade Young**

In this training, we will discuss tools and ways to maintain employees effectively and efficiently.

## Stepping Stones: Development Milestones from Ages 0-24 Months (APT)

**January 20, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: APT Staff**

This training covers the physical, emotional and cognitive developmental milestones that young children typically develop in the first two years of life.

# January '24 TRAINING Continued..

## Motor Development: Motor Milestones

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

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

**PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter**

Physical education is a critical part of every early childhood curriculum. Children need to move to channel their energies in creative, beneficial ways and to learn habits for lifelong health and fitness. Participants will discuss developmentally appropriate activities that foster physical development and build self-esteem. The activities are built around developmental motor milestones and are flexible enough to encourage skill development for a variety of learners.

## Getting Started 2024 (CTF)

**January 23-25, 2024 | 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, CCPE, LD, QCCL, PDG, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: GRECS Staff**

See page 3 for more information! *You must attend all sessions to receive credit.*

## Relationships Matter!

**January 23, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 4, 8 | DHR: PDG, CCPE | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton**

This class discusses the importance of relationships and how relationships affect all aspects of a child's development. Strategies will be given to promote healthy relationships between the child and teacher.

## The Power of Play (APT)

**January 23, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD | Infant, Toddlers | Basic | The Learning Tree, Fairhope

**PRESENTER: Olivia Brown**

Fred Rogers said, "Play is really the work of childhood." Through this 2-hour training, we will discuss ways to effectively implement play throughout the day using songs, movements, free play, as well as structured play. Come play with us!

## Thinking Outside the Bin: Explore STEM Bins (APT)

**January 25, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: LaDanika York**

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

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

**January 26, 2024 | 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 Kitsos**

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating.

## Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care

**January 27, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: HSN, COA | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: PDG, HSUP | Toddlers | Basic | Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room

**PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland**

To provide information to child care providers on the causes of biting behaviors in toddlers, ways to deter biting and resources on the topic of biting in young children.

## Let the Games Begin; "The Potty Bowl"

**January 30, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA | CDA: 2, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Paula Reese**

Participants will take on the role of "Potty Coach" to identify readiness and motor skills needed for toilet training; understand three steps to effective potty training, readiness, preparation and implementation.

## The Power of Play (APT)

**January 31, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD | Infant, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Erin Franklin**

Fred Rogers said, "Play is really the work of childhood." Through this 2-hour training, we will discuss ways to effectively implement play throughout the day using songs, movements, free play, as well as structured play. Come play with us!

# February '24 TRAINING

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

**February 1, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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

**February 1, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 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.

## Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF #6

**February 1, 2024 | 10:30am-11:30am 1 hr**

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

Identify signs of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and discuss ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome.

# February '24 TRAINING

Continued..

## Exploring Diversity and Differences in the Classroom

**February 1, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: LaDanika York**

This training will discover that diversity is about more than differences; it is about similarities and differences combined – those characteristics that make us who we are.

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

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

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

**PRESENTER: Olivia Brown**

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

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

**February 15, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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.

## Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF:8

**February 15, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr**

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

Participants will review essential information on handling and storing hazardous materials in the child care setting.

## Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF:9

**February 15, 2024 | 10:30am-11:30am 1 hr**

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

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

## Talking to Children About Race and Racism (APT)

**February 15, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: APT Staff**

Creating an inclusive and supportive preschool classroom can be challenging. In this training we will discuss different learning styles and sensory processing systems.

## Culturally Sensitive Classroom

**February 20, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV, ICFC | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: CCPF, CD | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Vicki Giles**

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

## Director's Forum Engaged: Building Intentional Partnerships with Families

**February 21, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: MA, PPD | CDA: 5 | DHR: CD, AM | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Jason Bryant**

Successfully engaging families in your programs can result in positive learning and social emotional outcomes for children and their families, but it can also positively impact program staff and communities. We will look at family engagement as it relates to 10 key values including trust, compassion, and generosity. Through targeted discussions during this session, celebrate what is good about your current family engagement framework and discover what you can do to elevate it to a new level.

## Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Lasting Impact

**February 21, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 16, 19 | AL Pathways: ICFC, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 5, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Jason Bryant**

In this session, we will share strategies for creating a more welcoming, inclusive, and equitable classroom culture. Join us for valuable resources and information that will help you improve your program and create a positive, lasting impact for children, families, and staff.

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

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD, ICFC | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Erin Franklin**

The goal of this training is to recognize how infants and toddlers need nutrition to grow, how to support picky eaters, and to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy choices for infant and toddlers. This training will also identify the self-feeding stages, how to avoid choking occurrences as well as food traps.

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

**February 23, 2024 | 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 Kitsos**

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating.

## Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care

**February 24, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: HSN, COA | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: PDG, HSUP | Toddlers | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100

**PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland**

To provide information to child care providers on the causes of biting behaviors in toddlers, ways to deter biting and resources on the topic of biting in young children.

## Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

**February 26, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs**

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

**PRESENTER: LaDanika York**

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



# February '24 TRAINING

Continued..

## The Power of Decision-Making (APT)

**February 27, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: CCPE, AM | School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Jade Young**

Navigating the decision-making process can be difficult for our youth. Through discussions and hands-on activities, participants will discover positive ways to teach the power of decision making.

## Rethinking Transitions and Circle Times

**February 28, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 18, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 5 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith**

This course is designed to provide teachers with a myriad of strategies for daily transitions and circle time. Learn ways to prevent challenging behaviors during transitions.

## Reality Bites! Biting in the Early Childhood Classroom

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

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, HSN | CDA: 1, 5, 7 | DHR: PDG, CD | Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Paula Reese**

Participants will explore a multi-faceted approach to handling biting in the classroom.

# March '24 TRAINING

## Cognitive Development

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

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

**PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter**

This session will help participants develop activities that include the facilitation of cognitive skills. Participants will learn from the instructor and other participants about effective activities for facilitating cognitive development.

## Tackling Transitions with Toddlers

**March 5, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton**

This class will provide a variety of DAP strategies for preventing and responding to challenging behaviors during transitions and circle time through effective communication.

## Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

**Sessions 1, 2, 3**

**March 6, 2024 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs/0.6 CEUs**

CCDF: 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, DIV, HSN, ICFC, LEE, MA, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, CCPE, HSUP, LD, PDG, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith, LaDanika York, Erin Franklin**

Session 1 – Orientation \*Must attend before taking other sessions\* 8:30-10:30 (see page 3 for more information)

Session 2 – Observations & Assessment 10:30-12:30

Session 3 – The Role of Parent and Caregiver 1:30-3:30

## Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8

**March 6, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs**

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

**PRESENTER: Avery Fick**

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

## Communicating Effectively with Parents

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

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD | CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPE | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: LaDanika York**

Participants will be exposed to multiple ways/ activities to include parents in the classroom.

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

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

CCDF: 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 6 | DHR: HSUP, CCPE | ALL | Basic | The Learning Tree, Fairhope

**PRESENTER: Erin Franklin**

Self-care is not selfish. This training is for YOU! Together we will explore what you can do to take care of yourself, recognize your limits, and accept yourself.

## Children's Development of Executive Functions (APT)

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3, 4 | DHR: CD | Preschool | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Jade Young**

Through discussion, hand-on, and group activities, we will uncover ways to engage children in the growth of execution functions.

## Day 2: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

**Sessions 4, 5, 6**

**March 13, 2024 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs/0.6 CEUs**

CCDF: 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, DIV, HSN, ICFC, LEE, MA, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, CCPE, HSUP, LD, PDG, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith, LaDanika York, Erin Franklin**

Session 4 – Self-Concept & Emotional Development 8:30-10:30

Session 5 – Social Development 10:30-12:30

Session 6 – Language and Literacy 1:30-3:30

## We're All in this Together! So Let's All Work in Our Own Special Way (APT)

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, COA, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Preschool | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: APT Staff**

In this training we will discuss different learning styles and sensory processing systems. We will explore a variety of strategies, tools and modifications that we can use to meet each and every child's developmental needs.

## STEM in Early Child Care

**March 16, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 5 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Preschool | Basic | Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville 2nd floor activity room

**PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland**

To develop STEM activities in the early childhood classroom to enhance learning and curriculum.

# March '24 TRAINING

## CDA: The Professional Portfolio

**March 18, 2024 | 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 course is designed to help guide early childhood professionals who need assistance with their Professional Portfolio.

## First-Aid and CPR Training

**March 19, 2024 | 12:00pm-4:00pm 4 hrs**

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

**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) for the child care setting.

## Making Happy Happen: Building Resilience in Children

**March 19, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: Paula Reese**

Participants will understand specific characteristics in a child's life that most contribute to resilience; essential life skills children need to cope with challenges, adopt a positive perspective, and develop self-confidence and self-worth.

## Day 3: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

**Sessions 7, 8, 9**

**March 20, 2024 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs/0.6 CEUs**

CCDF: 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, DIV, HSN, ICFC, LEE, MA, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, CCPF, HSUP, LD, PDG, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith, LaDanika York, Erin Franklin**

Session 7 – Physical Development 8:30-10:30

Session 8 – Cognitive Development 10:30-12:30

Session 9 – Putting It All Together 1:30-3:30

## Playground Safety CCDF: 5, 7

**March 20, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs**

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

**PRESENTER: Avery Fick**

Playing outside on the playground is the highlight of the day for many children. There are recognized hazards for children outside and standard precautions we can take to protect against them and provide great learning experiences safely. Come see how!

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

**March 21, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

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

**March 22, 2024 | 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 Kitsos**

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating.

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

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

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | 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.

## Socialization for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

**March 27, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 4, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

**PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton**

In this training, we will answer these questions and many more through hand-on activities and discussions.

## CPR and First Aid Refresher

**March 27, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hr**

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

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.

## Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

**March 27, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr**

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

**PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC**

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

## Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT)

**March 27, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

**PRESENTER: Desira Keith**

Using PBS KIDS shows as a starting point, participants will discuss ways to build and support curiosity, how to implement problem-solving and where to use critical thinking. The training will support this learning with engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and the use of children's books.



# January 2024



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>GRECS and EHS Closed for New Years Day</b>	2	3	4 Free Public Health and Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Navigating Circumstances: What Kids are Facing Today (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	5	6
8	9 Outdoor Adventures; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	10 Keeping Children Safe CCDF:4, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	11 Director's Forum: Work Smarter, Not Harder: Record Keeping and Financial Management; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Rain or Shine, It's Playtime! Finding Fun on Rainy Days; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	12	13
15 <b>GRECS and EHS Closed for MLK Jr. Day</b>	16 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Administration of Medication CCDF #3; 10:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Storytelling in Early Childhood Setting; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	17 Nurturing Young Minds: Promoting Creative Expression; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	18 Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment for Early Childhood Settings; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	19	20 Stepping Stones: Development Milestones from Ages 0-24 Months (APT); 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>
22 Motor Development: Motor Milestones; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	23 Getting Started (Day 1); 12:00pm-4:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Relationships Matter!; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  The Power of Play (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>The Learning Tree, Fairhope</b>	24 Getting Started (Day 2); 12:00pm-4:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	25 Getting Started (Day 3); 12:00pm-4:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Thinking Outside the Bin: Explore STEM Bins (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	26 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>	27 Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Washington County Public Library- large training room</b>
29	30 Let the Games Begin; "The Potty Bowl"; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	31 The Power of Play (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>			

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

# February 2024






GULF REGIONAL  
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 8:30am-9:30am; <b>Mobile</b></p> <p>Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 9:30am-10:30am; <b>Mobile</b></p> <p>Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF#6; 10:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b></p> <p>Exploring Diversity and Differences in the Classroom; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b></p>	2	3
5	6 <i>Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	7	8	9	10
12  <b>GRECS and EHS Closed for Mardi Gras Holiday</b>	13 	14 	15 <i>Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 8:30am-9:30am; <b>Mobile</b></i>  <i>Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF#8; 9:30am-10:30am; <b>Mobile</b></i>  <i>Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF#9; 10:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b></i>  <i>Talking to Children about Race and Racism (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b></i>	16	17
19	20 <i>Culturally Sensitive Classroom</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	21 <i>Director's Forum Engaged: Building Intentional Partnerships with Families</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  <i>Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Lasting Impact</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	22 <i>You Are What You Eat!: Nutrition for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	23 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>	24 <i>Curing the Biting Phase in Early Child Care</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette</b>
26 <i>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	27 <i>The Power of Decision-Making (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	28 <i>Rethinking Transitions and Circle Times</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	29 <i>Reality Bites! Biting in the Early Childhood Classroom</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>		

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



# March 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
4 Cognitive Development; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	5 Tackling Transitions with Toddlers; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	6 (Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines AELG) Sessions 1, 2, 3; 8:30am-3:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	7 Communicating Effectively with Parents; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	8	9
11	12 Who is Taking Care of YOU? Caregivers Need Attention Too!; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>The Learning Tree, Fairhope</b>  Children's Development of Executive Functions (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	13 (Day 2: AELG) Sessions 4, 5, 6; 8:30am-3:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	14 We're All in this Together! So Let's All Work in Our Own Special Way (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	15 	16 STEM in Early Child Care; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville</b>
18 CDA: The Professional Portfolio; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	19 First-Aid and CPR Training; 12:00pm-4:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Making Happy Happen: Building Resilience in Children; 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	20 (Day 3: AELG) Sessions 7, 8, 9; 8:30am-3:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>  Playground Safety CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	21 Rhyme, Rhythm, and Repetition: The Three R's of Preschool Literacy; 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	22 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; <b>Mobile</b>	23
25	26 Stuck Like Glue: Healthy Attachments for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>	27 Socialization for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; <b>Mobile</b>  	28 CPR and First Aid Refresher; 8:30am-9:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF# 11; 9:30am-10:30am; <b>Mobile</b>  Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; <b>Mobile</b>	29	30

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



## Valuing Diversity: Developing a Deeper Understanding of All Young Children's Behavior

**E**verything we think, say, and do is processed through our own cultural backgrounds. But because culture is absorbed and passed down from generation to generation rather than explicitly taught, we're seldom aware of it.

**C**ulture shapes not only our values and beliefs, but also our gender roles, family structures, languages, dress, food, etiquette, approaches to disabilities, child-rearing practices, and even our expectations for children's behavior. In this way, culture creates diversity.



### The Difference Between Equitable and Equal

**E**qual is not the same as equitable. Every child in your group has different needs, skills, interests, and abilities. Equal would mean giving all children the same activities, materials, and books. Equitable means ensuring that you consider each child's strengths, context, and needs and provide all children with the opportunities that will support them in reaching their potential.

**I**t's crucial to recognize the inequities that children and their families face—in school and out. The position statement reminds us that “dominant social biases are rooted in the social, political, and economic structures of the United States. Powerful messages—conveyed through the media, symbols, attitudes, and actions—continue to reflect and promote both explicit and implicit bias.” For example, research conducted by Yale University professor Walter Gilliam clearly shows that young African American boys are subject to higher rates of suspension and expulsion than their White European American peers.

### How Cultural Diversity Shapes Behavior

**Y**our culture and the children's cultures aren't the only cultures at work in your classroom. Every school and early childhood education program has a culture too. The cultures of most American schools are based on White European American values. As the makeup of the US population becomes more diverse, there is more cultural dissonance—which impacts children's behavior.

**W**hite European American culture has an individual orientation that teaches children to function independently, stand out, talk about themselves, and view property as personal. In contrast, many other cultures value interdependence, fitting in, helping others and being helped, being modest, and sharing property. In fact, some languages have no words for I, me, or mine.

**C**hildren who find themselves in an unfamiliar environment—such as a classroom that reflects a culture different from their home culture—are likely to feel confused, isolated, alienated, conflicted, and less competent because what they've learned so far in their home culture simply doesn't apply. They may not understand the rules, or they may be unable to communicate their needs in the school's language.

**Y**ou can form authentic, caring relationships with children and families; build connections between what children already know and what they need to know; select activities, materials, and instructional strategies that honor children's cultures and life experiences; and teach children the skills they need to succeed in a global society



## **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



Inaugural Infant Toddler  
Specialist Network  
Conference

# Connections: The Power Behind High- Quality Caregiving



Presented by:



JANUARY 27, 2024

IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

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TUSCALOOSA, AL

## Registration Links:

(If you wish to register by phone or have questions please contact  
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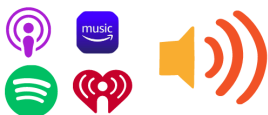
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## Have You Heard?

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# ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

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Benefits for Child Care Centers, Family and Group Home Providers

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## 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](mailto: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:**

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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.**

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GULF REGIONAL  
**Early Childhood Services**



United Way  
of Southwest Alabama



**January 15, 2024**

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED in  
honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**February 12-13, 2024**

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for  
Mardi Gras Holiday