

Early Learning News

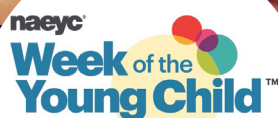
April, May, June 2024

THRIVE



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH

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2024

WEEK OF THE YOUNG
CHILD 2024

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STARTING A GARDEN IN THE ECE
SETTING

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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!

Child Abuse Prevention

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WOYC 2024

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Special Needs Childcare Subsidy

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Children are not
Things to be molded,
but are
People to be
unfolded.

—Jess Lair

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

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

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

Together we can make a difference!



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

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

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



naeyc® Week of the Young Child™

April 6th-12th

#WOYC24

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

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

Kick-off is Saturday **April 6th**. Take that day to prepare your activities for the following week, email your parents so they can plan for Family Friday activities and plan a virtual event with your social media community! The important thing is that we're celebrating the potential of ALL young children to learn, grow and thrive!

This is your time to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via social media channels. Post your activities on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #WOYC24!

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

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



MUSIC MONDAY

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

FEATURED CLASSES

The Power of MUSIC: The Importance of Music in Early Childhood

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

APRIL 8TH

#woyc24

naeyc.org/events/woyc



TASTY TUESDAY

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

FEATURED CLASS

Mealtime Math – Serving Up Success

April 9, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 9TH

#woyc24

naeyc.org/events/woyc



WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

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

FEATURED CLASS

Right on Time: Healthy Routines for the Early Childhood Classroom (APT)

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

APRIL 10TH

#woyc24

naeyc.org/events/woyc



ARTSY THURSDAY

On Artsy Thursday, celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative play. create and share photos of your children's creations on social media using the hashtag #woyc23.

FEATURED CLASSES

Paint with GRECS!
Moving from Crafts to Process Art

April 11, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 11TH

#woyc24

naeyc.org/events/woyc



FAMILY FRIDAY

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories about your family on social media using the hashtag #woyc24

APRIL 12TH

#woyc24

naeyc.org/events/woyc



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.greecs.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 April, May and June 2024!

- **April 11:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 11:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 18:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF#6; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 18:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF# 11; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 25:** Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **May 1:** Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 1:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 2:** Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **May 13:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 13:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 13:** Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF#8; 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 21:** KIDS and Allergies: What to Look For CCDF: 3, 4; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **May 30:** Hazard Recognition and Accident Prevention CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 10:** Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **June 10:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **June 26:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**



APT Spring Online Training

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

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

Registration opens on their website

March 11th 2024



**APT's Spring 2024
Facilitated Training**

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



**APT's On-Demand
Training Catalog**

SUPER SATURDAY WITH LISA KIRKLAND!

Parent Engagement and Circle Time

In this 4 hour training, participants will demonstrate and discuss ways to engage the parents and families in their programs while also understanding the benefits of using circle time with young children.

(Presenter: Lisa Kirkland; DHR: CCPF, CD, PDG, LD; Alabama Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC, PPD; CDA: 1, 2, 4, 6, 8; CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20; Basic Training Level; 4 hours/0.4 CEUs; Appropriate for ALL Age Groups)

June 22, 2024 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile



Getting Started

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

You must attend all sessions to receive credit.

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

May 7-9, 2024 | 12:00pm - 4:00pm

GRECS Training Room, Mobile

New Time!

Special Delivery Courses

Please Contact: Vicki Giles

251-473-1060

vgiles@greecs.org

We are offering special delivery courses for the following sessions:

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

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



April '24 TRAINING

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

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

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

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.

Navigating Circumstances: What Kids are Facing Today (APT)

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

CCDF: 19 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 3 | DHR: CCPF | School-agers | Intermediate | ALL Counties Webinar

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.

The Power of MUSIC: The Importance of Music in Early Childhood – Music Monday WOYC

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

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

The Power of MUSIC is designed to inform participants how music can stimulate children's development (cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional).

Mealtime Math – Serving Up Success – Tasty Tuesday WOYC

April 9, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP, LD | Infant, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Make mealtimes meaningful by incorporating math talk and hands on food preparation. Encourage mealtime conversations that build math vocabulary and understanding.

Right on Time: Healthy Routines for the Early Childhood Classroom (APT) – Work Together Wednesday WOYC

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

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD, LEE | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Routines keep a successful classroom running smoothly, making for effective teaching, learning, and growing. In this two-hour training, we'll explore how to create classroom routines to effectively care for infants and toddlers while maintaining the flexibility that this age group requires.

Paint with GRECS! Moving from Crafts to Process Art- Artsy Thursday WOYC

April 11, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Desira Keith

Come learn the value of moving from craft activities to process art. Unstructured exploration of art materials helps children form connections in their brains, it helps them learn—and it's also fun.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF #1

April 11, 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)

April 11, 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.

Opening A Family Child Care Home

April 13, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Jackie White

The purpose of this course is to encourage participants that are considering opening a family childcare home to create a safe and healthy environment and offer quality childcare to families. Come learn tips and techniques from a Family Home provider with over 25 years experience!

The Cornerstones of Language and Literacy

April 16, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Exploration of research-based information to explore the starting point of language and literacy development with practical strategies for enhancing language development in young children.

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

April 18, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11

April 18, 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.

April '24 TRAINING Continued..

Creating Playful Environments for Infants and Toddlers

April 18, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This class will discuss way teachers support children's development and learning by offering creative and effective play environments and activities for infants and toddlers.

Marvelous Mud! An Opportunity to Observe Children

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

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: COA, LEE | CDA: 2, 7 | DHR: CD, PDG | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Play presents a perfect opportunity to make informal observations and assessments of children's skills and abilities. Let's explore mud play as a tool for identifying a child's progress through developmental milestones. It's Earth Day!

Leading The Way Through Positive Guidance

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

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

PRESENTER: Jade Young

The Positive Guidance training will provide a comprehensive overview of recommended strategies for the early childhood environment. By introducing a framework in which children can learn acceptable social practices and ways to express themselves by using positive enforcement and reinforcement.

Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7

April 25, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

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

Lesson Planning for Circle Time (CTF)

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

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: QCCL, LD | ALL | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

In this session, participants will understand the benefits of using circle time to expand learning with children and identify ways to create and implement lesson plans for their circle time activities.

Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know

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

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, LEE | CDA: 2, 4, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | ALL | Intermediate | 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.

Welcome to Your Classroom: Creating an Environment for All Children to be Successful

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

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN, LEE, COA | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Savannah Sorrell

The goal for this training is to identify and examine the different ways that classroom environment can affect behavior and learning and how to best implement new strategies.

May '24 TRAINING

Administration of Medication CCDF #3

May 1, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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.

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

May 1, 2024 | 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.

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

May 1, 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.

Directors Forum: Strengthening Business Practices – Recruiting and Retaining Staff

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

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

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

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

May 2, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 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.

May '24 TRAINING Continued..

STEM in Early Child Care (CTF)

May 4, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 5 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | Walker Springs Road Baptist Daycare in Jackson, AL

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

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

Let the Games Begin; "The Potty Bowl"

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

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: COA, CGD | CDA: 2, 7, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | ALL Counties Webinar

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.

Getting Started 2024 (CTF)

May 7-9, 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

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!**

Community of Conversation

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Infant, Toddler, Preschoolers | Basic | Discovery Island Child Development 24843 Commercial Ave, Orange Beach, AL 36561

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Create a "Community of Conversation" in your classroom as you encourage children to talk, respond to children's communication, and develop vocabulary.

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

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

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

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

The Power of Thank You: Promoting Gratitude to Enhance Your Program Culture (TPI)

May 9, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers, School-agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Gratitude has the power to increase optimism and joy, decrease anxiety and depression, and strengthen feelings of connectedness. In this session, we will share research on the benefits of expressing gratitude and recommend strategies and resources to help you promote thankfulness in your program. Small acts and messages of gratitude can ripple outwards in big ways, and the more you practice gratitude, the more powerful it becomes!

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

May 13, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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.

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

May 13, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 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

May 13, 2024 | 10:30am-11:30am 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.

Young Children as Emerging Authors

May 13, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Rebecca Giles

Purposeful opportunities to communicate through print help young children build positive attitudes toward writing and about themselves as writers. This course will introduce a developmental view of publishing as a means of engaging and inspiring emerging authors.

Language Nutrition: The Key to Growing Healthy Brains in Infants and Toddlers

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

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This session will discuss learning strategies to build Responsive interactions that create relationships with infants and toddlers while incorporating elements of responsive interactions and how to talk with infants and toddlers.

May '24 TRAINING

Continued..

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

May 15, 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.

Basics of Behavior Management

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

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Managing the behavior of young children is difficult, however behavioral principles have one of the best evidence-based supports in the fields of education. This training will share the evidence base and strategies with participants.

Let's Light a Fire: Teaching Passion for Learning in Young Children

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

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Participants will understand how to implement activities to grow and support a love of learning in preschoolers while gaining knowledge of strategies to empower young children with a lifelong love of learning.

KIDS and Allergies: What to Look For CCDF: 3, 4

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

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This training will identify what to look for and how to treat common food and environmental allergies. This training will provide participants with materials and hands-on activities to encourage children and teachers to recognize allergic reactions and know how to deal with them.

Lesson Plans: Planning for Success

May 23, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Jade Young

This course is a guide that helps you facilitate your daily instructions and activities in the classroom. It outlines what your children need to learn, how you plan to teach it, and how they will be assessed.

Hazard Recognition and Accident Prevention CCDF: 5, 7

May 30, 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

During this session we will explore major causes of disaster possible in our area, recognize ways to safely prepare and experience these by good hazard recognition and response in the childcare setting. We will explore rules for good preparation, common issues that occur in disaster emergencies and risk factors that require further attention.

June '24 TRAINING

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

June 4, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 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.

So Much More Than Nothing: Translating Play Based Learning for Families

June 4, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC | CDA: 2, 4 | DHR: LD, CCPE | Infant, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | Spots for Tots Day Care and Learning Center - 92 Jefferson Ave., Chatom, AL, 36518

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Making learning visible to families is a vital component in strengthening family involvement in the learning process. We will explore how to use high-quality documentation to help families understand the link between play and learning.

CDA: The Professional Portfolio

June 5, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

Choosing Toys for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

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

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

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Children learn and explore the world through play. Ever wonder how toys affect young children's development? This training provides tips for choosing safe toys and manipulatives that spark the imagination and enrich learning.

Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF:9

June 10, 2024 | 8:30am-9:30am 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.

CPR and First Aid Refresher

June 10, 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.

June '24 TRAINING

Continued..

Cultivating Empathy: Helping Sensitivity and Kindness Blossom (TPI)

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa & Michelle Denney

Empathy is a fundamental part of building positive friendships and relationships. Moreover, it significantly contributes to overall well-being and mental health. Join us as we share age-specific strategies designed to help children learn empathic skills. Build an environment in which sensitivity and kindness thrive, thus creating a positive ripple effect that will enrich your entire classroom culture. *FREE Book for all who join the webinar!*

Inclusion in the Early Childhood Setting

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

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 4, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | ALL | Advanced | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Inclusion is the practice of educating and caring for children with disabilities and other special needs in the same environment or setting as their typically developing peers.

Magical Sensory Play with Infants and Toddlers

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

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Participants will learn the many ways that sensory play promotes growth in all the development domains and how they can use sensory experiences to support early learning for infants and toddlers.

The Power of Decision-Making (APT)

June 20, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 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.

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

June 21, 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 Kitos

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.

Super Saturday: Parent Engagement and Circle Time (CTF)

June 22, 2024 | 8:30am-12:30pm 4 hrs/0.4 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

In this 4 hour training, participants will demonstrate and discuss ways to engage the parents and families in their programs while also understanding the benefits of using circle time with young children.

Time to Tinker! Nurturing Curiosity and Creative Problem Solving (TPI)

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

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

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Unlock the natural curiosity of your students through engaging hands-on exploration with a variety of tools and materials. Throughout this interactive session, you will have opportunities to first engage in tinkering from a child's perspective and then reflect on strategies you can use to facilitate tinkering activities in your own program. Learn how to create an environment that sparks creativity and innovation and how to tailor your tinkering practice to the specific needs and goals of your program. It's time to tinker!

Cultivating Compassionate Classrooms

June 25, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | The Learning Tree, First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Participants will identify the four research-based components (i.e. readiness, recognize, rehearse, and respond) that are vital for fostering and sustaining a compassionate classroom.

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

June 26, 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

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.

Director's Forum: How to Create a "Gratitude" Culture in the Workplace

June 26, 2024 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: CCPE, AM | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Creating a positive work environment essential for employee satisfaction by cultivating a culture of gratitude; explore seven tips for practicing workplace gratitude and improving engagement and productivity to benefit students, teachers and families.

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

June 27, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 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: Savannah Sorrell

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.

April 2024





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <i>More Than 1, 2, 3... What is Early Numeracy? (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i>	3	4 <i>Navigating Challenging Circumstances: What are Kids Facing Today? (APT) (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; All Counties Webinar</i> 	5 Wear Blue Day! CTF 	6 
8 <i>The Power of MUSIC: The Importance of Music in Early Childhood; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> Music Monday #WOYC2024	9 <i>Mealtime Math – Serving Up Success; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i> Tasty Tuesday #WOYC2024	10 <i>Right on Time: Healthy Routines for the Early Childhood Classroom (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> Work Together Wednesday #WOYC2024	11 <i>Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</i> <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</i>  <i>Paint with GRECS! Moving from Crafts to Process Art; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> Artsy Thursday #WOYC2024	12 Family Friday #WOYC2024	13 <i>Opening a Family Child Care Home; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</i>
15 	16 <i>The Cornerstones of Language and Literacy; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i>	17	18 <i>Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</i> <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</i>  <i>Creating Playful Environments for Infants and Toddlers; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	19	20
22 <i>Marvelous Mud! An Opportunity to Observe Children; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>  Earth Day!	23 <i>Leading The Way Through Positive Guidance; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	24	25 <i>Keeping Children Safe (CTF) CCDF: 4, 7; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i> 	26 Day of Caring UWSA  United Way of Southwest Alabama	27 <i>Lesson Planning for Circle Time (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette</i> 
29 <i>Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> 	30 <i>Welcome to Your Classroom: Creating an Environment for All Children to be Successful; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	31			

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

May 2024



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 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>Introduction to the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>2 Directors Forum: Strengthening Business Practices – Recruiting and Retaining Staff; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Infection Control, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases CCDF: 1, 8; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	3	<p>4 STEM in Early Child Care (CTF); 9:30am-11:30am; Walker Springs Rd Baptist Daycare in Jackson, AL</p> 
<p>6 Let the Games Begin; “The Potty Bowl”; 6:00pm-8:00pm; All Counties Webinar</p>  <p>Teacher Appreciation Week! May 6th -10th, 2024</p>	<p>7 Getting Started (Day 1) (CTF);12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p> <p>Community of Conversation; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Discovery Island Child Development, Orange Beach, AL 36561</p>	<p>8 Getting Started (Day 2) (CTF);12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p>  <p>Stop, Look, and Listen: The Value of Observation (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>9 Getting Started (Day 3) (CTF);12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile</p>  <p>The Power of Thank You: Promoting Gratitude to Enhance Your Program Culture (TPI); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>Provider Appreciation Day!</p>	<p>11</p> 
<p>13 Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF: 5; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 8; 10:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Young Children as Emerging Authors; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>14 Language Nutrition: The Key to Growing Healthy Brains in Infants and Toddlers; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>15 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p> <p>Basics of Behavior Management; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	<p>16 Let's Light a Fire: Teaching Passion for Learning in Young Children; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> 	17	<p>18</p> 
<p>20</p> 	<p>21 KIDS and Allergies: What to Look For CCDF: 3, 4; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	22	<p>23 Lesson Plans: Planning for Success; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	24	25
<p>27 GRECS and EHS Closed for Memorial Day</p>	28	29	<p>30 Hazard Recognition and Accident Prevention CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	31	

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

June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1
3	<p>4 Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p> <p><i>So Much More than Nothing: Translating Play Based Learning for Families</i>; 5:30pm-7:30pm; Spots for Tots Day Care and Learning Center 92 Jefferson Ave. , Chatom, AL, 36518</p>	5 CDA: The Professional Portfolio; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	6 Choosing Toys for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	7	8
10 Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF; 9; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile	<p>11 Cultivating Empathy: Helping Sensitivity and Kindness Blossom (TPI); 6:00pm-8:00pm; All Counties Webinar</p> 	12	<p>13</p>  <p>AALECE 2024</p> <p><i>Go Beyond The Surface</i></p>	14	15
CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile					
17 Inclusion in the Early Childhood Setting; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	18 Magical Sensory Play with Infants and Toddlers; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	19	20 The Power of Decision-Making (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	21 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	22
		GRECS and EHS Closed for Juneteenth			<p>Super Saturday: Parent Engagement and Circle Time (CTF);</p> <p>8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile</p>
24	<p>25 Time to Tinker! Nurturing Curiosity and Creative Problem Solving (TPI); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>  <p>Cultivating Compassionate Classrooms; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree, First Fairhope</p>	<p>26 Free Public Health & Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</p> <p>Director's Forum: How to Create a "Gratitude" Culture in the Workplace; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile</p>	27 Stuck Like Glue: Healthy Attachments for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	28	29
					

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



Tips for Starting a Garden in an Early Childhood Setting

Gardening activities are a great way to get children involved with nature while teaching them about how things grow! Children can learn scientific concepts, cooperation skills, and more when taking part in gardening tasks and activities. It can be intimidating to start a garden if you have never done it before, so here are some tips for getting started!



Start small.

Starting small can be doing a short, one-time seed sprouting activity, or starting 1-2 containers outside or inside near a sunny window. Taking small steps in your gardening journey can help you, your staff, and the children get used to the process and routine of taking care of your new plants.

Starting small can be doing a short, one-time seed sprouting activity, or starting 1-2 containers outside or inside near a sunny window. Taking small steps in your gardening journey can help you, your staff, and the children get used to the process and routine of taking care of your new plants.



Keep it simple.



Find items that your program already enjoys.

Is pizza a lunchtime staple? Try planting a pizza garden! Plant Italian herbs, such as basil and oregano to use as seasoning on your pizzas. You can even plant tomatoes for the sauce and bell peppers for toppings! Think of the foods that are already enjoyed by the children in your care and incorporate them into your garden.

Let the children care for the garden.

You don't have to do all of the work! Children can do almost all tasks in the garden, including planting, watering, digging, placing soil, harvesting, and more. Doing these tasks not only helps you and the garden but strengthens their gross and fine motor skills as well! Letting children take care of the garden also gives them a sense of empowerment, which encourages them to try the fruits and vegetables they grew in the garden.



Ask for help from families and your community.

Families can help by gathering supplies for the garden and even completing gardening tasks. One of your families may have a gardening expert to help with your garden! Involve families after your harvest by setting up a produce box at pickup so fruits and veggies can be enjoyed at home.

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





★ April 25TH 2024, 9 AM - 1 PM AT THE GROUNDS ★

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama invites teachers and students to our annual Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival. This free event features children's book authors, live book readings, exhibitors, and free book giveaways for teachers, students and entire classrooms! Drawstring backpacks will be

given to the first 2000 children. Established in 2019, the goal of the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is to get books into the hands of young readers and inspire a life-long love of reading. The Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama's Read. Learn. Achieve Initiative.



bgcsouthal.org/festival



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

**Teacher
Appreciation Week**
May 6-10, 2024

**Provider
Appreciation Day**
May 10, 2024

Go Beyond The Surface

Gulf Coast Early Childhood
Summer Symposium
2024



Wednesday, June 12th, 2024 - Friday, June 14th, 2024

*The Lodge at Gulf State Park, Gulf
Shores, Alabama*

Register online today at www.alabamachildcare.org
Contact us for more information - aalece@gmail.com

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

JOHNNIE FROST

THE DIRECTOR OF KINDERKIDS



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



ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

Benefits for Child Care Centers, Family and Group Home Providers

Availability

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

Reimbursement

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

Inclusion Support

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



About the Subsidy

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

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



The Resource Place



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

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

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Call 251- 473-1060

Monday | 9am-4pm

Tuesday | 9am-4pm

Wednesday | Closed

Thursday | 9am-4pm

Friday | 9am-2pm

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

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please contact

Marybeth Fields at 251-473-1060 ext 1702

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care and education.

 **334-604-6260**  **info@alabamaqualitystars.org**

SUPPORT CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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



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GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



May 27, 2024
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Memorial Day

June 19, 2024
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Juneteenth