



GRECS Professional Development Team

Quality Enhancement Activities Report

October 2022- September 2023

* Training and Technical Assistance

GRECS conducted workshop sessions in all counties in the service area, providing caregivers with the opportunity to complete training hours needed to fulfill DHR yearly training requirements, renew certificates and credentials, improve their skills and ability to provide high quality learning environments and experiences for children, and maintain professional status.

GRECS had an increase in the number of trainings sessions and participants

- GRECS offered 325 training sessions
- GRECS had 7,341 registrations
- 5,574 people attended training events offered through GRECS.
- credit hours offered was 533.5 hours

I am highlighting Tyronda Griffin and Destiny Autry who travel over a 100 miles one way to attend GRECS Training Classes. Combined together they have over 168 contact hours in a time period of 4 months. Tyronda and Destiny reside in Florala, AL which is 103.78 miles from Mobile, AL.

*Early Childhood Institute with Dr. Rosemarie Allen

GRECS staff and childcare providers from all seven counties were excited to have special guest **Dr. Rosemarie Allen** for the Early Childhood Institute in August 2023.

Dr. Allen has served as a leader in early childhood education for nearly 40 years. Her life's work is centered on ensuring children have access to high-quality early childhood programs that are developmentally and culturally appropriate. She is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her classes are focused on ensuring teachers are aware of how issues of equity, privilege, and power impact teaching practices. She is also the President & CEO of the Institute for Racial Equity & Excellence. Dr. Allen presented *Preventing Early Childhood Suspensions, It's All About You! and The Role of Implicit Bias in Explaining Disparities in Early Childhood*.

These topics explored information regarding the relationship between children's behavior and the adult's responses to undesired behavior. Dr. Allen discussed strategies for aligning practitioner expectations with those of children and families. Door Prizes were given out along with GRECS training calendars.

- 144 participants were in attendance

* Early Literacy Project

GRECS completed Early Literacy Project book distributions and visits to 51 licensed centers, 13 exempt centers, and 11 family/group childcare homes serving children ages 0-5 years in Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington Counties. At book distributions, GRECS staff modeled read-aloud techniques for caregivers on site, and children were given a book of their very own to take home. Over 2,500 books were distributed to teachers and children.

***AELG**

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Credential Training – face-to-face. GRECS Quality Consultants provided training sessions to support child care professionals completing coursework in order to receive the AELG credential. GRECS had 59 individuals complete the full course and receive the credential.

***Lending Boxes**

This program provides busy caregivers in Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe and Washington Counties with pre-selected teaching aids, toys, games and books that support identified learning objectives structured around a theme and goal.

- This past year 49 Lending Boxes were delivered to providers in GRECS’s service area
- New Lending Box materials were purchased and providers received books, art supplies, calendars, die cuts and bulletin board paper.

***Resource Place**

The Lending Library in Mobile, offers child care providers and the community access to special classroom toys, games, puppets, children’s books, and program planning and resource materials. The Resource Place, including the Lending Library and Work Room offers teachers, child care professionals, home care providers and anyone else caring for young children a convenient outlet for ideas and materials. The highly qualified staff, equipment and materials at the Resource Place also make this an ideal base for providing technical support to teachers/caregivers. A work room includes special equipment such as die-cutters, laminators and button machines.

GRECS had an increase in the number of new memberships and total items checked- out

- The number of visitors to the Resource Place was 251 providers
- Items checked out from the Lending Library, 1,237
- New memberships, 89
- Entered over 900 items into the new online check out system

***Technical Assistance**

Professional Development team provided 2,851 technical assistance visits to introduce skills and knowledge to early childhood providers in the early childhood field both in-person (face to face) and virtual (emails, Zoom phone, etc).

***School Readiness Calendars “Getting Ready for Kindergarten”**

Calendars were distributed to 61 child care programs throughout the service region. Every 4- and 5-year-old child received a calendar to take home. Parents are encouraged to use the ideas described in the calendar and teachers use them, too! Training and technical assistance is provided for each program receiving the calendars. This year **2,500 English and 50 Spanish were distributed.**