

Early Learning News

July, August, September 2024



United Way
of Southwest Alabama

Day of Caring

UWSWA DAY OF CARING 2024
pg 2

Early
Childhood
Institute
with
Louis Torelli

EARLY CHILDHOOD
INSTITUTE
pg 3



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING AND
EQUIPPING OUTDOOR PLAY YARDS
pg 14



ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL
NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY
pg 18

Take a Look Inside

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

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

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

UWSWA Day of Caring

page 2

ECI - Louis Torelli

page 3

Highlighted Courses

page 4, 5

Pass Along to Parents

page 14

Author Spotlight

page 16

Special Needs Childcare Subsidy

page 18

*Wander
with wonder,
for in every
exploration,
a child discovers.*

—Unknown

Day of Caring Highlights 2024

The United Way of Southwest Alabama (UWSWA) held its 30th Annual Day of Caring, one of the region's largest single days of volunteerism on April, 26th 2024



Day of Caring volunteers witness first-hand how their support makes a difference as they make repairs, plant flowers and ready gardens for planting, read children's books to kids, and help our agencies complete projects they do not have the time or resources to do throughout the year. Volunteers also have the opportunity to hear the stories of those whose lives have been impacted because of the donations made to the UWSWA.



Thank You!

It is only with your help, that events like Day of Caring are possible. Through your participation, you help fight for the health, education, financial stability, and access to life's basic essentials for every person in every community we serve. GRECS's passion, expertise, and resources help the fight become a win. We are grateful for your support!

Early Childhood Institute

WITH

Louis Torelli, M.S.Ed.,



Louis Torelli, M.S.Ed., is the co-founder and director of Spaces for Children (www.spacesforchildren.com), a company specializing in classroom and facility design for early childhood programs.

Louis began his career in 1979 as an early childhood teacher and, for six years, worked in infant, toddler, and preschool programs. Over the last 40 years working as an ECE environmental design consultant, he has designed thousands of classrooms and hundreds of childcare facilities nationwide. As an ECE trainer, Louis has conducted workshops on environmental design for tens of thousands of early childhood educators nationwide.

Louis is the author of numerous articles on classroom and facility design. He co-authored “Educating and Caring for Very Young Children: The Infant/Toddler Curriculum,” published by Teachers College Press. Since 1992, he has been on the WestEd’s Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) Trainer Institutes faculty and consulted on developing PITC’s Space to Grow DVD and Setting Up Environments training manual.

Space To GROW: Designing High-Quality Group Care Environments for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

The design of the physical environment impacts how children learn and how teachers teach! High-quality environments support better outcomes for children and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Optimally designed environments promote safety, security, focused learning, exploration, and pro-social relationships. Quality environments also support teachers in their role as facilitators of children’s learning and development, thereby assisting in promoting best practices. Intentionally designed physical environments provide the foundation for a sound program design and support teacher effectiveness with the children in their care.

In this session, participants will learn the principles and strategies for creating high-quality indoor and outdoor environments. Content will include a discussion on the science of space planning and how programs can utilize classroom and facility enhancements as an opportunity to improve program practices and teacher-child interaction. Design component content will include the following:

Design Principles; Head Start Performance Standards and Best Practices; Classroom layout and furniture space planning; Components of quality outdoor environments; Designing for ease of child supervision; Criteria for napping areas; Health and Safety; Sinks and Toileting Area design; Acoustics; Flooring; Color; No-cost and low-cost improvements; Master Planning: short-term and long-term strategies to optimize resources.

Friday, August 2, 2024

9:30am-3:30pm

Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile

More details to come!

Stay up-to-date on session information and subscribe to our newsletter at www.grecs.org!

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 Day care Center #2

Mobile County

GRECS Training Rooms -

3101 International Dr, Building 6

Washington County

Spot for Tots Child Care Center

Washington County Public Library



If you have any questions or need directions

Call us at
251-473-1060
or visit
www.grecs.org

CCDF Health and Safety Courses 2024

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in July, August and September 2024!

- **July 9:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **July 9:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF #2 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **July 15:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **July 15:** Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 5:00pm-6:00pm; **Mobile**
- **July 15:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF# 11; 6:00pm-7:00pm; **Mobile**
- **July 16:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **July 27:** 4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 5, 7, 8 ; 8:30am-12:30pm; **Mobile**
- **August 6:** Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT); 5:30pm-7:30pm; **Webinar**
- **August 20:** Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **August 20:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **August 22:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **August 22:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 9:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases including Immunizations CCDF #1; 5:00pm-6:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 9:** Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF# 5; 6:00pm-7:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 10:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 10:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 11; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **September 16:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 16:** Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF#8; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 18:** Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 18:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 11; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 23:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF #7; 5:00pm-6:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 23:** Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF#8; 6:00pm-7:00pm; **Mobile**





Angela Russ-Ayon

Angela Russ-Ayon is an interactive trainer on the subject of early childhood, award-winning children's author, and an award-winning artist/producer of music for young children. She presents educational strategies to child care providers, parents, and educators nationwide. Her trainings spark creativity and engage participants from both an early childhood-oriented and an adult learner's perspective. She speaks to audiences young and old on the subjects of early childhood development, early math, simple science, creativity, and literacy.

In this dynamic 3-Hour course, educators will explore innovative strategies for integrating motor skills, affordable activities, and instructional support to introduce children to Mathematical and Science concepts.

The first session, "Math, Motion, and Connecting the Thoughts" Participants will discover how to engage children in hands-on learning experiences that promote mathematical thinking while incorporating movement and play. Through practical demonstrations, collaborative activities, and reflective discussions, educators will gain valuable insights into creating a math-rich environment that fosters exploration, discovery, and problem-solving skills in young learners.

In the second session, "Dynamic Discoveries: Simplifying the Sciences" we will journey into the world of life science. Educators will learn how to build on existing foundations and connect STEM concepts across domains using captivating examples from life science.

Monday, August 5, 2024

9:30am-12:30pm | Wind Creek Conference Center, Atmore

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)

July 23-25, 2024 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

New Time!

Special Delivery Courses

Please Contact: Vicki Giles

251-473-1060

vgiles@grecs.org

We are offering special delivery courses for the following sessions:

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

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

July '24 TRAINING

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF #1

July 9, 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)

July 9, 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.

Building Better Block Play

July 9, 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

Build better preschool block experiences by engaging preschoolers in planning and experimentation. We will learn how block play can strengthen motor development, collaboration and cooperation, and language development.

Preparing for Emergencies in the Childcare Setting

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

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

PRESENTER: Jade Young

The purpose of this training is to promote a better understanding of the impact emergencies have on children and explore ways in which teachers can prepare families for emergency situations.

Bridging the Gap: Family Engagement (APT)

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

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, DIV, ICFC | CDA: 1, 3, 4 | DHR: CCPF | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Families may look and communicate differently today, but our focus is still the same: healthy development for the child! This is a training to explore and discuss ways to connect and enhance our relationships with families. From challenges to collaborating, we will explore simple ways to bridge the gap throughout the school year and keep families engaged and excited about learning.

CPR and First Aid Refresher

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

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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.

Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF:9

July 15, 2024 | 5:00pm-6:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

CCDF: 11

July 15, 2024 | 6:00pm-7:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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.

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

July 16, 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.

Let's Explore STEM: Engaging STEM in Learning Centers

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

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This session will explore the concept of learning centers and their significance in early childhood education. Uncover strategies to seamlessly integrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) into these learning environments.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

July 17, 2024 | 10:00am-12:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: DHR Staff

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama Pathways and how it can help teachers in the early childhood profession.

Director's Forum: Playground 101 - Get Ready; 4 Questions To Ask Before You Build!

July 18, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE, MA | CDA: 1, 2, 5 | DHR: HSUP, AM | Directors | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

Participants will prepare for the many decisions and steps in the process of breaking ground on a new outdoor area or updating an existing playground. Playgrounds are vital safe spaces where children can be themselves and have fun while developing crucial cognitive, emotional, physical and social skills.

Learning Through Movement and Play

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

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Children use their bodies to build the pathways in their brains, laying the framework for complex, creative, and critical thought. This course explains how children need to use their bodies to learn.

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

July 19, 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. More information provided online!

Speaking the Language of Conscious Discipline

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library, Upstairs Activity Room, Monroeville, AL

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This course is to encourage directors and teachers to develop a teaching mind-set to promote social and emotional learning in their staff/coworkers and the children in their care. We will explain the components of conscious discipline and explore the seven skills of conscious discipline.

Calm Down, Already!

July 22, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, LD | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Why can't kids just 'calm down, already?' Why can't they use 'their words?' Because we – the adults – have to teach them how to calm down and give them words to use.

Getting Started 2024 (CTF)

July 23-25, 2024 | 8:30am-12:30pm 12 hrs/1.2 CEUs

CCDF: 6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC, LEE, HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 | DHR: CD, CCPF, LD, QCCL, PDG, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

See page 5 for more information. *You must attend all sessions to receive credit!*

Little Hands Can Do Big Things: How Young Children Can Make a Difference in Their Community

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

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: ICFC, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 4, 5 | DHR: CCPF | Preschoolers, School-agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this workshop is for participants to gain knowledge about ways children can volunteer in their community, as well as, learn the social-emotional aspects of volunteering.

Pre-K Spaces, Design for a Quality Classroom

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

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This session highlights the importance of the environment and provides an overview of what to consider when creating and maintaining developmentally appropriate preschool learning environments based on ECERS.

4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 5, 7, 8

July 27, 2024 | 8:30am-12:30pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 1, 5, 7, 8 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 8 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

Dive deep into crucial topics ensuring a safe environment for children, including emergency preparedness, building premises safety, and the prevention of infectious disease

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

July 29, 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.

All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT)

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

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: DIV, LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Basic | The Learning Tree, First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Savannah Sorrell

Come take a journey with us around the world as we celebrate diversity and inclusion. In this training, we will discuss different holidays that will be supported by hands-on activities, discussions, and the use of children's books.

Lesson Plans: Planning for Success

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

CCDF: 13, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD | ALL | Basic | Discovery Island; 24843 Commercial Ave, Orange Beach, AL 36561

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.

August '24 TRAINING

Caring Spaces and Learning Places

August 1, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 1, 2 | DHR: QCCL, CD | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will explore the power of the environment, the landscape of children's lives today and the array of settings they inhabit. Analyze the dimensions and qualities of children's environments to create quality early learning environments.

Early Childhood Institute - with Louis Torelli, M.S.Ed.

August 2, 2024 | 9:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs/0.6 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 18, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN, LEE, COA, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 | DHR: QCCL, CD, PDG, CCPF, HSUP, LD | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Advanced | Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile

PRESENTER: Louis Torelli

See page 3 for more information.

Math, Motion, and Connecting the Thoughts and Dynamic Discoveries: Simplifying the Sciences

August 5, 2024 | 9:30am-12:30pm 3 hrs/0.3 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 18 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, COA | CDA: 1, 2, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, LD, PDG | ALL | Advanced | Wynn Creek Conference Center

PRESENTER: Angela Russ-Ayon

See page 5 for more session information.

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

August 6, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: HSUP, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

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

August '24 TRAINING

Continued..

Sweet Home Alabama (APT)

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Savannah Sorrell

In this 2-hour training we will visit the history, culture, and the foods of Alabama through the eyes of children. Come along with us and discover things that are simply Alabama.

CDA: The Professional Portfolio

August 12, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

Gardening with Kids: Nurturing Brain, Body, and Soul

August 13, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This session will equip educators with the skills to effectively engage children in gardening activities, fostering their holistic development while meeting safety standards.

Building Positive Relationships with Families: Communication is the Key

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

CCDF: 16, 18 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 4 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Jade Young

To learn effective ways to welcome all families into our classrooms by providing first class customer service through communication on a regular basis.

Eliminating Transitions = Eliminating Chaos

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

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Transitions promote challenging behaviors. In order to reduce challenging behaviors, it is important to design daily schedules with minimal transitions.

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

August 16, 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. More information provided online!

Administration of Medication CCDF: 3

August 20, 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

August 20, 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.

Decisions! Decisions! The Importance of Giving Children Choices

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: LEE | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This session explores the essence of choice and its pivotal role in child development. Discover the many benefits of offering children choices while mastering the art of navigating the do's and don'ts to ensure positive outcomes.

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

August 21, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

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

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

August 22, 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

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

August 22, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am 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.

Readiness Approaches to Play

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

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will explore the importance and benefits of different types of play and the mechanics of how children learn through play.

Infant and Toddler Exploring Nature with Young Children

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

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: QCCL, LD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Through hands-on activities, discussions, and reflective exercises, participants will learn how to create inviting outdoor environments, plan developmentally appropriate nature-based experiences, and effectively facilitate learning and exploration in natural settings.

Creating Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors

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

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Rebecca M. Giles

This course describes how to establish an active learning environment where children are given interesting experiences to write about and many opportunities to write.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

August 28, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: DHR Staff

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama Pathways and how it can help teachers in the early childhood profession.

Happy, Healthy Kids: Incorporating Nutrition and Movement into Your Program (APT)

August 29, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: APT Staff

We will learn about the importance of nutrition and physical activity for young children. This training will also discuss nutritious snacks and ways to incorporate movement in your program.

September '24 TRAINING

Groovin' with Nursery Rhymes

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

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This training will empower educators to harness the inherent musicality of nursery rhymes to create vibrant learning environments that inspire curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of music and language in young learners.

Guidance! Not Discipline

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

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

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

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1

September 9, 2024 | 5:00pm-6:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will demonstrate ways to prevent the spread of diseases in the child care setting.

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

September 9, 2024 | 6:00pm-7:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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.

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

September 10, 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

Participants will learn 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.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11

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

CCDF: 6, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

This course will provide an overview of prevention efforts, mandated reporting laws and responsibilities, as well as ways child care providers can care for and support children exhibiting symptoms of abuse.

Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

Sessions 1, 2, 3

September 11, 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 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

Baby Let's Go Outside!

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

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: HSUP, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course describes the why and how of outdoor play for our youngest children.

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

September 16, 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

September 16, 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.

Nature-Based Learning: Inspiring & Supporting Staff to Help Children Learn with Nature

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

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

This course is designed to equip childcare providers with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to integrate nature-based learning into their curriculum effectively. Participants will explore the benefits of nature-based education for children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development, as well as strategies for incorporating nature into daily activities and lessons.

Day 2: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

Sessions 4, 5, 6

September 18, 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

Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF:9

September 18, 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.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11

September 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.

Director's Forum: Employee Retention: Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment for Early Childhood Settings

September 19, 2024 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: CCPE, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Jade Young

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

Moving and Grooving: Fine and Gross Motor Skills for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

September 19, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

This training covers the small and large muscle movements for growing infants and toddlers, milestones of physical development, and actionable strategies to strengthen fine and gross motor skills.

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

September 20, 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. More information provided online!

Expression, Tone and Pace: How to Read to Children

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library, upstairs activity room

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

This course explores the art of reading to children with a focus on expression, tone, and pace. Participants will explore the importance of expression in storytelling and learn how to infuse their readings with emotion, energy, and enthusiasm.

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

September 23, 2024 | 5:00pm-6:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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

September 23, 2024 | 6:00pm-7:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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

Classroom Strategies for Supporting Emerging Authors

September 24, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschoolers, School-agers | Advanced | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Rebecca M. Giles

This course describes three specific strategies for using these personally relevant and meaningful encounters to support young children's writing development.

Nature-Based Learning: Inspiring & Supporting Staff to Help Children Learn with Nature

September 24, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | ALL | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Participants will explore the benefits of nature-based education for children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development, as well as strategies for incorporating nature into daily activities and lessons.

Day 3: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

Sessions 7, 8, 9

September 25, 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 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

Continuity of Care in the Infant/Toddler Classroom

September 26, 2024 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

Come take a journey with us around the world as we celebrate diversity and inclusion. In this training, we will discuss different holidays that will be supported by hands-on activities, discussions, and the use of children's books.

All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT)

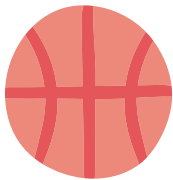












September 30, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 3 | DHR: CD | School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile





PRESENTER: Savannah Sorrell

Come take a journey with us around the world as we celebrate diversity and inclusion. In this training, we will discuss different holidays that will be supported by hands-on activities, discussions, and the use of children's books.

July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4 GRECS and EHS Closed for Independence Day	5	6 
8	9 <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>Building Better Block Play; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> 	10 <i>Preparing for Emergencies in the Childcare Setting; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> 	11 <i>Bridging the Gap: Family Engagement (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar</i>	12	13 
15 <i>CPR and First Aid Refresher; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile</i> <i>Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 5:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile</i> <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11; 6:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile</i> 	16 <i>Free Public Health & Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile</i> <i>Let's Explore STEM: Engaging STEM in Learning Centers; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i> 	17 <i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry; 10:00am-12:00pm; Webinar</i>	18 <i>Director's Forum: Playground 101 - Get Ready; 4 Questions To Ask Before You Build!; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</i> <i>Learning Through Movement and Play; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	19 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</i>	20 <i>Speaking the Language of Conscious Discipline; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville</i>
22 <i>Calm Down, Already!; 5:30pm-7:30pm; Mobile</i>	23 <i>Getting Started (Day 1); 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile</i>  <i>Little Hands Can Do Big Things: How Young Children Can Make a Difference in Their Community; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</i>	24 <i>Getting Started (Day 2); 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile</i> 	25 <i>Getting Started (Day 3); 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile</i>  <i>Pre-K Spaces, Design for a Quality Classroom; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	26	27 <i>4 Hour Health and Safety Training: CCDF: 1, 5, 7, 8; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile</i> 
29 <i>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</i>	30 <i>All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope</i>	31 <i>Lesson Plans: Planning for Success; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Discovery Island, Orange Beach</i> 			

August 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Caring Spaces and Learning Places; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	2 Space To GROW: Designing High-Quality Group Care Environments for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers; 9:30am-3:30pm; Dauphin Way Baptist Church Mobile Early Childhood Institute with Louis Torelli	3
5 Math, Motion, and Connecting the Thoughts and Dynamic Discoveries: Simplifying the Sciences; 9:30am-12:30pm; Wind Creek Conference Center, Atmore	6 Playing It Safe: How to Create Safe Spaces (APT); 5:30pm-7:30pm; Webinar	7 MCPSS Back to School	8 Sweet Home Alabama (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar BCBE Back to School	9	10 
12 CDA: The Professional Portfolio; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	13 Gardening with Kids: Nurturing Brain, Body, and Soul; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	14 Building Positive Relationships with Families: Communication is the Key; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	15 Eliminating Transitions = Eliminating Chaos; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	16 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	17
19	20 Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF #4; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile Decisions! Decisions! The Importance of Giving Children Choices; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	21 There's No App To Replace Your Lap: Reading to Infants and Toddlers; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	22 Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF: 5; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile  Readiness Approaches to Play; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	23	24 Infant and Toddler Exploring Nature with Young Children ; 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
26 	27 Creating Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	28 Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	29 Happy, Healthy Kids: Incorporating Nutrition and Movement Into Your Program (APT); 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	30	31 

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

September 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 GRECS and EHS Closed for Labor Day	3	4 Groovin' with Nursery Rhymes; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	5 Guidance! Not Discipline; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	6	7 
9 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1; 5:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile Building and Physical Premises Safety, Including Identifying Electrical Hazards, Bodies of Water, and Vehicular Traffic CCDF: 5; 6:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile	10 Free Public Health & Safety: First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile 	11 (Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines AELG) Sessions 1, 2, 3; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	12 Baby Let's Go Outside!; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	13 	14
16 Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 8; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile	17 Nature-Based Learning: Inspiring & Supporting Staff to Help Children Learn with Nature; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	18 (Day 2: AELG) Sessions 4, 5, 6; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile Appropriate Precautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile 	19 Director's Forum: Employee Retention: Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment for Early Childhood Settings; 9:30am-11:30am; Webinar Moving and Grooving: Fine and Gross Motor Skills for Infants and Toddlers (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	20 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	21 Expression, Tone and Pace: How to Read to Children; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville
23 Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 5:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 8; 6:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile	24 Classroom Strategies for Supporting Emerging Authors; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Nature-Based Learning: Inspiring & Supporting Staff to Help Children Learn with Nature; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	25 (Day 3: AELG) Sessions 7, 8, 9; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile 	26 Continuity of Care in the Infant/Toddler Classroom; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	27	28
30 All About the Holidays: Fostering Inclusion and Diversity (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile					

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



Guidelines for Designing and Equipping Outdoor Play Yards

Most early care and education programs have outdoor play yards. However, because the outdoor program is usually not valued as much as the indoor program, often inadequate thought and financial support are contributed to the yard's design and equipping. As a result, children's activity in most yards is frequently lackluster and sometimes even harmful.

The Outdoor Classroom Project's goal is to increase the quantity, quality, and benefit of outdoor activity for children ages zero-five. Quality outdoor programs are more likely to happen when the play yards meet a few of the ten simple guidelines:

1. Adjacency

Play yards should always be adjacent to the classrooms of the children they are serving.

This fundamental design principle maximizes use of the outdoor space, effectively expanding the size and richness of a given classroom by the size and richness of the outdoor yard. In situations where existing programs lack adjacency, accommodation must be made through staffing and scheduling to maximize time outside.

2. Space

Play yards should always be large enough to contain the full variety of activities children require for healthy development outdoors.

This is a frequently ignored guideline as yard sizes are usually a minimum based on the number of children multiplied times so many square feet per child. In small preschool programs this creates yards as small as 1-2,000 sq. ft., much too small to accommodate the full range of activities children need. In such yards children lack activities required for full development, while activity areas overlap and conflict with one another.



3. Completeness

Healthy outdoor development can only happen when there is the full range of activities that is required for development of the whole child.

The play yard is an "outdoor classroom". In that spirit, most everything that can be done inside, can be done outside. The outdoor environment should have all of the activities found inside plus those that generally can't be done in a classroom (e.g., trikes, swings, ball games). Each activity needs a defined, and usually, separated space. In some cases (e.g., art, reading, water play) that space can be movable and defined by movable items such as blankets, tables, or even just the presence of a teacher.



4. Storage

There must be adequate outdoor storage to support the full variety of activities children require for healthy development outdoors.

Every activity area should have its own storage. It is unrealistic to expect teachers to move all the materials required for rich outdoor play from the inside outside and back each day. (A little is okay.)



5. Nature

Nature and a natural environment should be the dominant environment outdoors.

For many young children, the play yard at their center is their best opportunity for an experience of nature. The play yards of too many centers are dominated by concrete or asphalt, while the most common natural substance, sand in fall zones, is being replaced by poured-in-place rubber. Particularly for children living in urban areas, play yards should offer an opportunity for relief from the "concrete jungle". Yards emphasizing nature provide children with unique learning opportunities (such as the importance of the environment and facts about the natural sciences) while providing the nurturing experiences that can only be found in nature.

Scan the QR Code to continue reading about "Guidelines for Designing and Equipping Outdoor Play Yards, Recommendations from the Outdoor Classroom Project"



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





The Professional Development Registry (PDR) will allow you to:

- Create your own early childhood professional and training profile.
- Document your professional accomplishments and professional certificates.
- Identify your current place on the Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice.
- Collaborate with state-designated training agencies to help you identify and reach your goals.
- Link to official training organizations.
- Access to available resources.

Things to remember:

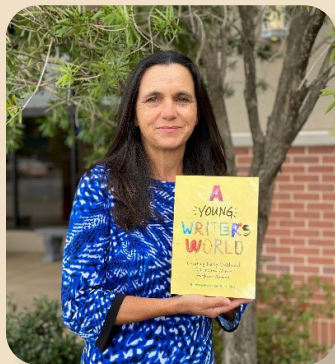
- Website address – www.alabamapathways.org
- An updated User Guide is always available for your reference on your dashboard
- FAQ's - <https://www.alabamapathways.org/api/file/s/faq>
- When adding info into the profile, go to each tab to add information: education, employment, etc.
- A Help Desk will be available on the footer of the page on the left side.
- When setting up your account, remember to use your PERSONAL email.
- As a FINAL step, don't forget to associate yourself with the facility at which you are working.

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Author Spotlight Rebecca McMahon Giles, Ph.D.

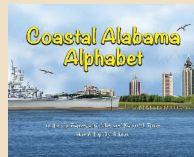
Rebecca McMahon Giles, Ph.D., is a Professor at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL, where she has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in Early Childhood and Elementary Education since joining the faculty in 1998. Over the past 30 years, she has spoken and published widely in the areas of early education, literacy, and teacher preparation.

She is the author of two teacher resource books – Write Now! Publishing with Young Authors, PreK through Grade 2 (Heinemann, 2007) and A Young Writer's World: Creating Classrooms Where Authors Abound (2020, Exchange Press) and two picture books Coastal Mississippi Alphabet (2021, Brother Mockingbird) and Coastal Alabama Alphabet (2023, Brother Mockingbird).

Join Dr. Rebecca Giles for a Series on Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors

Dr. Giles will lead an engaging series of sessions focused on nurturing young writers and fostering a love of writing in children. Each session explores a unique aspect of supporting and inspiring emerging authors:

- Creating Classrooms that Encourage Emerging Authors
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
- Classroom Strategies for Supporting Emerging Authors
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
- Reading and Writing with Emerging Authors
Tuesday, October 15, 2024



Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Dr. Rebecca Giles and gain valuable insights into creating classrooms where young authors can flourish! The Resource Place has several copies of Dr. Rebecca Giles' influential books available for checkout! Visit our comprehensive library today!

APT Summer 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
June 17th 2024

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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.



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

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

A member of AITSN will contact you after completion.



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.



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SUPPORT CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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



Gulf Regional Childcare Management Agency, Inc.

3101 International Drive, Building 6 Mobile, AL 36606

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GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



July 4th, 2024

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Independence Day

September 2nd, 2024

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Labor Day