

Early Learning News

July, August, September 2025



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Take a Look Inside

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

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

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

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If you can
imagine it,
you can make
it *real*.

- Fred Rogers

Community Highlights

The United Way of Southwest Alabama (UWSWA) held its 31st Annual Day of Caring, one of the region's largest single days of volunteerism on April 4th, 2025. Thank you to Aavidian Credit Union for helping pack learning materials for our PNC distributions.



Thank You!

On May 8th, families, teachers, and community members gathered at the Dearborn YMCA for a powerful Parent Engagement meeting. Director Georgia Baker led an inspiring session where parents shared heartfelt stories of how Dearborn's Early Head Start child care partnership has shaped their children's futures and strengthened their families. From first steps to first words, from support systems to success stories — this is what investing in early childhood looks like.



Hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival brings together authors, educators, and volunteers with one mission: to spark a love of reading in young minds. From live book readings to exciting giveaways, it was a joy to see so many bright smiles and curious readers!



It's a privilege to support and be part of a community where children are nurtured, celebrated, and given the tools to thrive.



YEARS of RESULTS

HEAD START | Since 1965

Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services



This year, we proudly celebrated Head Start's 60th birthday by honoring "60 Years of Results" in programs across Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Clarke counties. For six decades, Head Start has played a vital role in empowering families and supporting the healthy development of young children through comprehensive early childhood education, health services, and family engagement. These celebrations reflect our ongoing commitment to ensuring every child enters school ready to thrive—laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.



Alabama Early Learning Guidelines - (AELG)

NEW FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE for 2025!

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines were developed to promote continuity of high-quality care and learning for children ages 0-5. The AELG course serves as a guide for understanding child development and for implementing best practices to prepare children for success in school and in life. Participants who complete this course will receive 18 training hours and the official AELG Credential issued by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. *You must attend Session 1: Orientation before taking any other session.* (CDA Content Areas: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 | DHR Categories: CD, CCPE, HSUP, LD, PDG, QCCL | Alabama Pathways to Quality and Education Core Areas: CGD, COA, DIV, HSN, ICFC, LEE, MA, PPD | CCDF: 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20) | [Register now at www.grecs.org!](http://www.grecs.org)

July 23, 2025 (Day 1)

8:30am-3:30pm

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

August 27, 2025 (Day 2)

8:30am-3:30pm

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

September 24, 2025 (Day 3)

8:30am-3:30pm

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

August 20, 2025 | GRECS Mobile

6:00pm-8:00pm

- Session 1 – Orientation

September 3, 2025 | Webinar

6:00pm-8:00pm

- Session 1 – Orientation



Scan now to register!

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

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 2025

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in July, August and September 2025!

- **July 18:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; **Mobile**
- **July 18:** Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6 (CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; **Mobile**
- **July 24:** Water Safety; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **July 30:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**
- **August 12:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 4, 8; 5:00pm-7:00pm; **Mobile**
- **August 20:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **August 20:** Administration of Medication CCDF: 3; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **August 27:** Infection Control and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 10:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; **Mobile**
- **September 10:** A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF: 4 (CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; **Mobile**
- **September 16:** Preparing for the Unexpected CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 17:** Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3; 4:00pm-6:00pm; **Mobile**
- **September 24:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 8:30am-9:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 24:** Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **September 30:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; **Mobile**



Highlighted Courses for July, August and September 2025

As the summer months unfold, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers continue to grow rapidly—physically, emotionally, and socially. These warm-weather months are filled with opportunities for outdoor exploration, sensory play, and new social experiences. For infants and toddlers, consistent routines and nurturing interactions help them feel secure even as their environments become more stimulating. Preschoolers thrive on curiosity and connection, and summertime provides the perfect backdrop for building friendships, expressing emotions through play, and learning through nature. Supporting young children's mental health during this season means creating safe, responsive spaces that allow them to explore, rest, and be themselves—laying the groundwork for confident, resilient development.

Guiding With Heart: Positive Behavior Strategies for Preschool Success

Presented by: Karen Morrison

This interactive session empowers preschool teachers with practical, relationship-based strategies for guiding young children's behavior in nurturing, developmentally appropriate ways. *CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Preschool | Intermediate | 0.2 CEUs | 2 Hours*

September 9, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF)

Presented by: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Learn some easy, effective strategies for responding to children's behavior and helping children learn important skills for resolving their own conflicts. *CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | 0.2 CEUs | 2 Hours*

September 22, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm
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/1.2 CEUs; Appropriate for ALL Age Groups)

July 15-17, 2025 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile



July '25 TRAINING

Its OK to Be Angry: Understanding Anger in Toddlers

July 1, 2025 | 5:00pm-7:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, PDG | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Participants will gain valuable insights into the developmental aspects of anger, its role in a child's emotional growth, and effective strategies for guiding toddlers through this challenging phase.

Community of Conversation

July 8, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

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.

Teaching Empathy

July 9, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CCPE, PDG | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will gain a better understanding of the definition of empathy and the importance of empathy in society. Come explore ways to teach empathy to children.

STEM: In An Early Childhood Setting

July 10, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This engaging session highlights the importance of nurturing young children's natural curiosity through hands-on experiences that spark exploration, inquiry, and discovery.

Getting Started 2025 (CTF)

July 15-17, 2025 | 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, CCPE, 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!*

Mathematical Tales: Using Read Alouds to teach Math Concepts for Young Learners

July 15, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Toddlers, Preschool, School-agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison

This training will equip you with innovative strategies to introduce math concepts through captivating read alouds and hands-on activities. Learn how to create an enriching learning environment that fosters a love for math. Join us to enhance your teaching skills and make math an exciting adventure for young minds!

Safe and Sound: Safe Screens and Sound Minds (CTF)

July 17, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CD | School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Participants will discuss what mental health is and how social media affects one's mental health.

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

July 18, 2025 | 9:00am-10:00am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will discuss ways to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Use of Safe Sleep Practices. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6 (CTF)

July 18, 2025 | 10:00am-11:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

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

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

July 21, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

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

Language Nutrition, the Key to Growing Healthy Brains in Infants And Toddlers

July 22, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Participants will learn strategies to engage infants and toddlers effectively through strengthening language development, creating a foundation for secure attachments and positive development.

Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Sessions 1, 2, 3

July 23, 2025 | 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: GRECS Staff

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

Water Safety CCDF: 5, 7

July 24, 2025 | 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

Participants will develop a sample set of rules and an emergency action plan for water emergencies at their sites.

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

July 25, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitsos

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button

July 26, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, COA | CDA: 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-agers | Basic | Monroe County Public Library

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Participants will learn practical tools for creating structured, supportive environments, promoting emotional regulation, and building strong caregiver-child relationships.

Family Style Dining At Its Best!

July 29, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Early Childhood educators play an important role in helping children develop healthy eating habits. Family-style dining offers the opportunity for children to support language development and learn how to choose healthy foods in age-appropriate portions, as well as the social skills used during dining.

First-Aid and CPR Training

July 30, 2025 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

The Power of Positive Affirmations for Early Childcare Professionals

July 30, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CCPF | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

The goal for this course is to empower early childcare professionals with the understanding and tools to incorporate positive affirmations into their daily routines, improving their well-being, enhancing their interactions with children, and creating a positive work environment.

Director's Forum: Safe and Sound: Safe Screens and Sound Minds

July 31, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CD | School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Participants will discuss what mental health is and how social media affects one's mental health.

Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

July 31, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Just as adults are affected by their environment, infants and toddlers are affected by theirs as well. In conjunction with PBS Kids shows and resources, we will examine learning environments that promote safety and security that will meet the needs of infants and toddlers.

August '25 TRAINING

Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety

August 2, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD | CDA: 1, 5, 8 | DHR: HSUP, QCCL | ALL | Basic | Washington County Public Library- large training room 14102 St. Stephens Ave., Chatom, AL 36518

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

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

Exploring Science Through Storytime: Read Aloud Strategies for Young Learners

August 5, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschool, School-agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison

Gain practical tips and resources that will make science come alive and inspire a love of learning! Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your teaching toolkit and spark curiosity with storytelling.

The Ten Ps of Parent Communication

August 6, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: PPD | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Come learn effective strategies to help parents feel welcomed in the school environment, comfortable engaging with teachers, and well-informed about both current and upcoming events and insight into building and sustaining strong, positive relationships with parents.

Sparking Curiosity: Using the Question of the Day to Build Engagement, Critical Thinking, and Early Math Skills

August 7, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This training aims to equip early childhood educators with strategies for effectively implementing the Question of the Day, fostering classroom engagement, promoting language development, and integrating basic math skills through student response graphing.

A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants

August 12, 2025 | 5:00pm-7:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 4, 8 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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 and hazardous materials. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

August '25 TRAINING

Continued..

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

August 13, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPE, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Play as a Pathway: Connecting Families with Developmental Milestones

August 14, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC | CDA: 4, 8 | DHR: CCPE, CD | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Learning through PLAY is a powerful educational approach tapping into a child's natural curiosity and desire to explore the world around them. As early childhood professionals, let's observe child's play with a focus on developmental milestones and how to communicate learning to families.

From Overwhelmed to Optimistic (APT)

August 19, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Challenging behavior in the toddler years can be overwhelming at times. Let us learn more about social emotional milestones, skills for self-regulation, and ways to promote positive behavior in the toddler classroom and explore free PBS resources to use in the classroom and to share with families.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations CCDF: 1

August 20, 2025 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Administration of Medication CCDF: 3

August 20, 2025 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines-AELG Session 1: Orientation

August 20, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

Through AELG participants will develop a basic understanding of concepts and terminology related to child development. This session will introduce participants to the origin and purpose of the AELG. You must attend Session 1: Orientation before taking any other session.

Physical Activity in Early Learning: Why It's Important!

August 21, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course focuses on recognizing the importance of physical activity for infant, toddler, and preschool children. Participants will be able to recognize movement and physical development milestones for children 0-5 years of age.

Essential Math Readiness Skills

August 26, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, PPD | CDA: 2, 6, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will learn throughout this fun, informative training, tips, activities, and best practices for preparing preschoolers in your care for academic success by incorporating intentional math interactions and exercises into everyday lessons and activities.

A YES Environment: Promoting Positivity in Your Classroom

August 26, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 1, 3, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

In this training session, participants will explore ways to create a positive classroom while also identifying developmentally appropriate tactics for a safe, and positive environment.

Day 2: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Sessions 4, 5, 6

August 27, 2025 | 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: GRECS Staff

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

Infection Control and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3

August 27, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

Participants will explore, how germs are spread while also identifying situations which may require administration of medications and list the symptoms of allergies.

Raising Readers (APT)

August 28, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

With PBSKids resources, we will discover ways to introduce, facilitate and support literacy and reading with young children.

Souped Up Storytime!

August 29, 2025 | 9:00am-11:00am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Storytime can be a delightful experience with the right ingredients. Come get the recipe that will spice up your read-alouds.

Eliminating Transitions = Eliminating Chaos

August 29, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 15 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | Discovery Island - 24843 Commercial Ave Orange Beach, AL 36561

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

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

September '25 TRAINING

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines-AELG Session 1: Orientation

September 3, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 8 | DHR: CD | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Through AELG participants will develop a basic understanding of concepts and terminology related to child development. This session will introduce participants to the origin and purpose of the AELG. You must attend Session 1: Orientation before taking any other session.

Play, Learn and Discover through Science Experiments (APT)

September 4, 2025 | 9:00am-11:00am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Through hands-on activities and exciting media, this training will bring science to life in your classroom. This two-hour training is packed with fun experiments to bring the joy of learning to your classroom.

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

September 8, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

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

Guiding With Heart: Positive Behavior Strategies for Preschool Success

September 9, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Preschool | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison

This interactive session empowers preschool teachers with practical, relationship-based strategies for guiding young children's behavior in nurturing, developmentally appropriate ways. By the end of this session, participants will leave with actionable strategies to create supportive environments where children feel safe, understood, and ready to thrive.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF)

September 10, 2025 | 9:00am-10:00am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF: 4 (CTF)

September 10, 2025 | 10:00am-11:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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.

Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood

September 11, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Rebecca Giles

Teachers must recognize creative thinking as the heart of all learning and prioritize opportunities for children to think and act creatively. This session will explore developmentally appropriate practices to enhance children's creative self-expression during routine class activities such as art, story time, and blocks.

The Ten Ps of Parent Communication

September 16, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: ICFC | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: PPD | ALL | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Come learn effective strategies to help parents feel welcomed in the school environment, comfortable engaging with teachers, and well-informed about both current and upcoming events and insight into building and sustaining strong, positive relationships with parents.

Preparing for the Unexpected CCDF: 5, 7

September 16, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 5, 7 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | **No CEU Credit is awarded**

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.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations and Administration of Medication

CCDF: 1, 3

September 17, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 1, 3 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | **No CEU Credit is awarded**

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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 and identify situations which may require administration of medications.

September '25 TRAINING

Continued..

Engaging Our Sensory Systems - The Sensory World of Young Children - Session: 1

September 18, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Let's explore the eight sensory systems and the behaviors that children with sensory processing challenges may exhibit.

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

September 19, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitsos

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. In addition, participants will take a closer look at the Best Practice Verification Manual and define program standards that are comprised of standardized, research-based criteria. Participants will gain a better understanding of the requirements for obtaining a higher star rating. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety

September 20, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, CGD | CDA: 1, 5, 8 | DHR: HSUP, QCCL | ALL | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

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

Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF)

September 22, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

Learn some easy, effective strategies for responding to children's behavior and helping children learn important skills for resolving their own conflicts.

We're All in this Together! Creating a Culture in which Everyone feels Heard, Valued, and Supported

September 23, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 16, 18, 19 | AL Pathways: MA, PPD | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa & Michelle Denney

In this training, we will explore the pivotal role of effective communication, appreciation, and support in fostering a workplace culture that thrives on collaboration and mutual respect. Strengthen your team by cultivating an environment.

STEM: Inexpensive, Easy Activities to Implement and Engage Our Youth

September 23, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | Preschool, School-agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa & Michelle Denney

Join us to discover inexpensive activities that will spark interest and engage learners of any age in your program.

Day 3: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG)

Sessions 7, 8, 9

September 24, 2025 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs/0.6 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith, LaDanika York, Erin Franklin

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

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

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

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

September 24, 2025 | 8:30am-9:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9

September 24, 2025 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hrs

CCDF: 9 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | **No CEU Credit is awarded**

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

Participants will identify Department of Human Resources (DHR) performance standards for transporting children and discuss safety issues when loading and unloading children.

Supporting Young Learners with Autism

September 25, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Understanding young learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASG); preparing early childhood educators to work effectively with young learners and their families. Strategies that incorporate best practices as well as recognize individual strengths and needs.

First-Aid and CPR Training

September 30, 2025 | 8:00am-12:00pm 4 hrs

CCDF: 10 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile | **No CEU Credit is awarded**

PRESENTER: Renea Gilliland

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.

The "Stuff" of Childhood: Supporting Play in Early Education

September 30, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This training will offer participants insights into the value of play, its role in early childhood development, and the essential skills needed in early childhood education.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry











September 30, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 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 early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR.

July 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Its OK to be Angry: Understanding Anger in Toddlers</i> ; 5:00pm-7:00pm; Webinar	2	3	4 GRECS & EHS Closed for Independence Day	5
7	8 <i>Community of Conversation</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	9 <i>Teaching Empathy</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	10 <i>STEM: In An Early Childhood Setting</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	11	12 
14 	15 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 1) CTF</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile  <i>Mathematical Tales: Using Read Alouds to Teach Math Concepts for Young Learners</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	16 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 2) CTF</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile 	17 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 3) CTF</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile  <i>Safe and Sound: Safe Screens and Sound Minds (CTF)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	18 <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices</i> CCDF: 2 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile  <i>Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma</i> CCDF: 6 (CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile	19
21 <i>Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	22 <i>Language Nutrition, the Key to Growing Healthy Brains In Infants And Toddlers</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	23 (Day 1: Alabama Early Learning Guidelines AELG) Sessions 1, 2, 3; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	24 <i>Water Safety</i> CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	25 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	26 <i>How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville
28 	29 <i>Family Style Dining at Its Best!</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	30 <i>First-Aid and CPR Training</i> ; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile <i>The Power of Positive Affirmations for Early Childcare Professionals</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	31 <i>Director's Forum: Safe and Sound: Safe Screens and Sound Minds</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile		

August 2025



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services











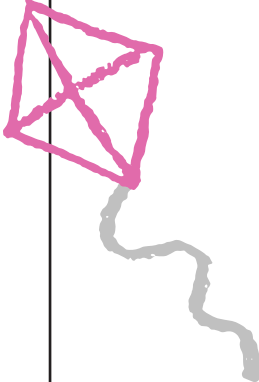
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room
4	5 <i>Exploring Science Through Storytime: Read Aloud Strategies for Young Learners;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	6 <i>The Ten Ps of Parent Communication;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar 	7 <i>Sparking Curiosity: Using the Question of the Day to Build Engagement, Critical Thinking, and Early Math Skills;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	8	9 
11 	12 <i>A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants</i> CCDF: 4, 8; 5:00pm-7:00pm; Mobile	13 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Webinar	14 <i>Play As a Pathway: Connecting Families with Developmental Milestones;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	15	16 
18	19 <i>From Overwhelmed to Optimistic (APT);</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	20 <i>Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations</i> CCDF : 1; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile <i>Administration of Medication</i> CCDF: 3; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile <i>Alabama Early Learning Guidelines-AELG Session 1: Orientation;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	21 <i>Physical Activity in Early Learning: Why It's Important!;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	22	23 
25 	26 <i>Essential Math Readiness Skills;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile <i>A YES Environment: Promoting Positivity in Your Classroom;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	27 (Day 2: AELG) <i>Sessions 4, 5, 6;</i> 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile <i>Infection Control and Administration of Medication</i> CCDF: 1, 3; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	28 <i>Raising Readers (APT);</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	29 <i>Souped Up Storytime;</i> 9:00am-11:00am; Mobile <i>Eliminating Transitions = Eliminating Chaos;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Discovery Island, Orange Beach, AL	30

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

September 2025



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 GRECS & EHS Closed for Labor Day	2 	3 Alabama Early Learning Guidelines-AELG Session 1: Orientation; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	4 Play, Learn and Discover through Science Experiments (APT); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	5 	6
8 Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	9 Guiding with Heart: Positive Behavior Strategies for Preschool Success; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	10 Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF); 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF: 4 (CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile 	11 Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile	12	13 
15 	16 The Ten Ps of Parent Communication; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope Preparing for the Unexpected CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	17 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Including Immunizations and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile	18 Engaging Our Sensory Systems - The Sensory World of Young Children Session 1; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	19 Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	20 Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety; 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
22 Positive Guidance for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (CTF); 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	23 We're All in this Together! Creating a Culture in which Everyone feels Heard, Valued, and Supported; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile STEM: Inexpensive, Easy Activities to Implement and Engage Our Youth; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	24 (Day 3: AELG) Sessions 7, 8, 9; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural or Man-Caused Events CCDF: 7; 8:30am-9:30am; Mobile Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile	25 Supporting Young Learners with Autism; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	26	27 
29	30 First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:00am-12:00pm; Mobile  The "Stuff" of Childhood: Supporting Play in Early Education; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Webinar				

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

The View From the Door

Entryways are an Essential Aspect of Environmental Design

Early childhood environments that are engaging and responsive to the needs of children and professionals take into account the incredible diversity that is in each classroom. Not only is the classroom comprised of a variety of individuals with unique ways of viewing and interacting with the world, but all individuals bring with them their own developmental needs. A good environment, therefore, will meet this diversity of needs. Careful attention to all aspects of environmental design can support this important task.

Environmental Design

Where does environmental design begin? Much attention has been paid to classroom layout in early childhood programs: the placement of areas relative to one another, and learning center design. Although consideration of these variables is certainly important in designing appropriate environments for children, families, and staff, something can be gained by focusing on one small area of the room, and taking apart what that area might mean in the larger scope of children's needs. By looking at one corner of the environment—the view from the door—many important aspects of environmental design can be examined and highlighted.

In order for children to feel motivated, they need to feel safe and secure in the early childhood environment, and an important part of this safety and security is how well children's transitions from the outside world are supported. The view from the door can give important information about what the classroom is all about. The classroom impacts children, families, and staff as they step through the door.



What Do You See As The Door Slowly Opens?

Many of the young children (and parents!) who enter through the door need just a bit more time, a few more snuggles, before they are ready to venture out into other areas of the room. It is here that parents and teachers can cuddle up with children over their choice of a good book, located next to the couch in an inviting straw basket. On the left is a small couch, worn by the use of its many occupants, and adorned with a floral—of course washable—cover.



What Can We Learn From These Views From The Door?

Entryways should be designed to support children's varied developmental needs. For infants and toddlers, these needs include security and autonomy/independence, and for older children, the need to display initiative is added to the mix. Entryways should provide children with opportunities to develop and maintain relationships, to help them to interact with their environment, and to feel the impact of these interactions.



How To Begin

How can you start developing entryways that meet these varied goals? Next time you enter your classroom, get down on your knees—so you are viewing the classroom from children's eye level—and take a good look around:

- What catches your interest?
- What activities might help you cross the threshold and enter into the larger environment?
- Are there children who need extra snuggles before full entry? Is there space to accommodate this?
- Are there objects in your immediate view that might serve as rich conversational pieces, helping children to make the transition into the larger environment?

Scan the QR Code to continue reading about
"The View From the Door
Entryways are an Essential Aspect
of Environmental Design"



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



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!



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.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

September 30, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm

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 early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR.

Your profile belongs to you! Take it along wherever your professional journey may take you! All you have to do is log in!

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:

Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood

September 11, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm **2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

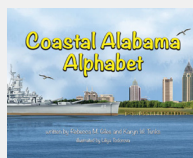
CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Dr. Rebecca Giles

Teachers must recognize creative thinking as the heart of all learning and prioritize opportunities for children to think and act creatively. This session will explore developmentally appropriate practices to enhance children's creative self-expression during routine class activities such as art, story time, and blocks.

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!



Smart Horizons On-Demand Courses

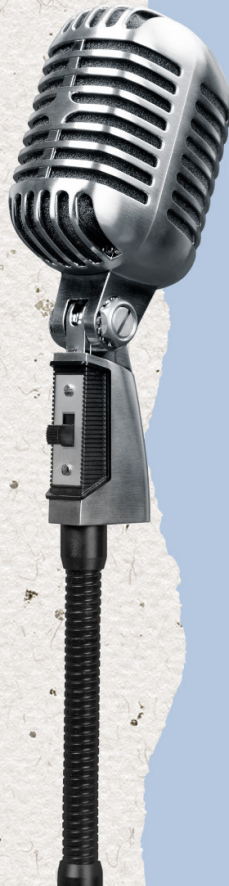
Our online training courses are designed to help you meet your professional goals. Whether you simply want to complete annual training requirements or you're trying to acquire training hours for a CDA, our courses provide a variety of engaging topics designed specifically for you!

We have scholarships available for this program!

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

**AUG.
2025**

SEASON 3



GRECS' PODCASTS



Featured Guests

Include:

**Chazz Lewis
Amanda Morgan &
TyHeim Clark AKA
The Childcare Whisperer**



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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 mind-set of continuous growth and discovery.

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,

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



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



<https://aptv.org/education/learn-online/>
Registration opens on their website : **June 16, 2025**

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.

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Early Childhood Services



United Way
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**SAVE
THE DATE!**

July 4th, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Independence Day

September 1st, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Labor Day