

Early Learning News

October, November, December 2025

EMBRACE



MAKE A CIRCLE
pg 3



PRESCHOOL CONNECTIONS
pg 3



**PASS ALONG TO PARENTS
GET A GRIP ON FINE MOTOR
DEVELOPMENT**
pg 14



**ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL
NEEDS CHILD CARE 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!

Outdoor Fun

page 2

Make A Circle

page 3

Preschool Connections

page 3

Admin Basics/CDA

page 4, 5

Pass Along to Parents

page 14

Performance Standards/APT Online

page 16, 17

Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul.
-Fredrich Froebel

Going Beyond The Playground: Math, Science and Outdoor Fun

Autumn is the perfect time for going outside for a walk or to a local park to play are great ways to help your children learn! In addition to spending time at the playground, take time to explore: do you see trees to count, neighbors to greet, or street signs to read?

Here are some ideas for playful learning that will help make the most of your family's time outdoors.

Street Sign Scavenger Hunt

While walking through the neighborhood, invite your child to look at and identify signs, like Stop and No Parking. Talk about them. This helps children understand that written words and symbols have many important purposes: to keep us safe, to help us work together, and to spread essential information. Try prompting your child's thinking with questions like, "What Signs do you see? I wonder what clues help us figure out what the signs say." Work together to identify the colors, letters, and numbers on different signs!

Science On the Hill

Hills are such fun for rolling, running, and exploring. Did you know that hills are also great for learning science concepts and vocabulary? Try this in the park with your child: collect different nature items (pinecones, pebbles, sticks) and test whether they roll down a hill. Use words like faster, slower, speed, weight, mass, and slope as you experiment. Children also love to roll their bodies down hills!



Help Your Child Be A Noticer

Practice noticing numbers, letters, and other details as you explore outdoors. Encourage your child by saying and doing things like these:

"I see numbers on this sign! I see the number three. I wonder what it means?" and "What other numbers can we find on our walk, and what do they tell us?"

"I see some footprints going across the ground. I wonder who made them. Where are they going?" Create a story together about the footprints!

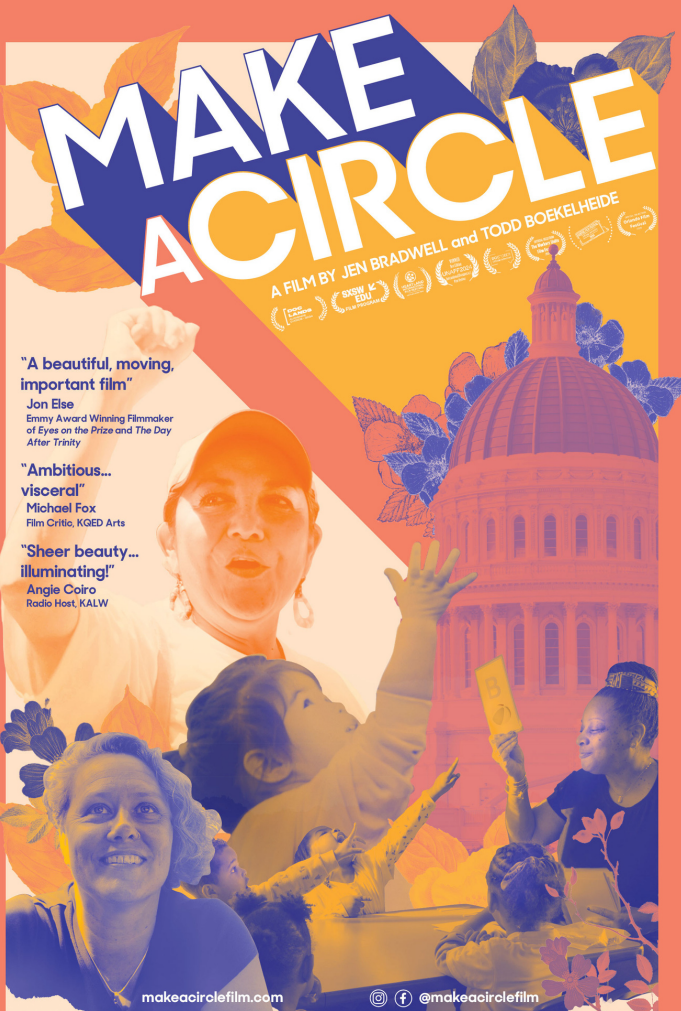
"I spy with my little eye... a cloud shaped like the letter O! What do you see?"

Identify the parks and other outdoor spaces in your neighborhood

Sometimes the most magical places are just around the corner. Take a look at a map or search the web to help you identify nearby parks. Even the tiniest spaces can hold magic for you and your family!



Written by Rachel J. Franz, MEd, the director of education and founding lead teacher at Tiny Trees Preschool, an outdoor preschool program in Seattle, Washington. She is a founding member of NAEYC's Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC). Teaching Young Children; April/May 2019; Vol. 12, No. 4



GRECS is hosting a community screening of **Make A Circle!**

A powerful documentary highlighting the voices of child care providers who are reshaping how society values early education. The event will feature a live podcast recording and panel discussion with industry and community leaders.

Join us at GRECS Main Office
3101 International Dr
Building 6, Mobile, AL 36606

Saturday, October 25th, 2025
9:00am - 12:00pm



Tiny Moments, Big Learning Series with Karen Morrison, PhD



Preschool Connections

Join early childhood specialist Dr. Karen Morrison for an inspiring three-part professional development series designed to help educators connect the power of everyday moments in preschool settings. Each session offers practical strategies to elevate learning and engagement through intentional teaching practices.

1

Session 1 **Tiny Moments, Big Impact – Seamless Transitions in Preschool**

Transitions are the invisible thread that weaves together a successful preschool day, ensuring young learners move smoothly from one activity to the next. Discover how to turn daily transitions into meaningful learning opportunities that support classroom flow and child development.

October 7, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm

2

Session 2 **Integrating Art into Preschool Learning**

Explore creative ways to use visual arts to enhance cognitive, social-emotional, and language development in young children.

November 4, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm

3

Session 3 **Preschool Counting Collections to Build Math Skills**

Learn hands-on techniques to develop number sense and mathematical thinking through engaging counting collections.

December 9, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your practice and walk away with ready-to-use ideas that captivate young minds and make every moment count!

Mark your calendar!

Winter 2026 brings a brand-new 3-part series from Dr. Karen Morrison: **Big Discoveries for Little Learners**. This engaging series is designed to ignite curiosity and build foundational skills in toddlers and preschoolers.

Register now 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 2025

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've Got You Covered for this quarter in October, November and December 2025!

- **October 8:** Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6; 12:30pm-2:30pm; **Mobile**
- **October 22:** Infection Control and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3; 6:30pm-8:30pm; **Mobile**
- **November 5:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 12:00pm-4:00pm; **Mobile**
- **November 5:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect In Early Child Care CCDF: 6, 11; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Webinar**
- **December 3:** Preparing for the Unexpected CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **December 4:** 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**



Child Development Associate CDA Credential, Fast-Track Overview: A 3-Day Intensive Preparation

This dynamic 3-day training provides an in-depth introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) credentialing process. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the National CDA program and its requirements, including the creation of a Professional Portfolio and preparation for the exam. The course offers guidance on writing competency statements, assembling resource collections, and developing a professional philosophy statement.

Attendees will also receive support in organizing documentation to meet the required 120 hours of formal education, including help reviewing and aligning previous training certificates, transcripts, and coursework. One-on-one consultation is included to address individual training gaps and support candidates in completing their portfolios. Preparation for the Pearson Vue exam will cover the content and format of the computer-based exam.

This fast-track training is an accelerated overview and does not award the CDA credential in three days. Participants will leave equipped with the tools and knowledge to continue the process, but must still complete their portfolio, pass the exam, and submit a formal application to the Council for Professional Recognition.

Session 1

Friday,
November 21, 2025
12:00-3:00 p.m.

Session 2

Monday,
November 24, 2025
9:00- 3:00 p.m.

Session 3

Tuesday,
November 25, 2025
9:00-3:00 p.m.

Administration Basics 2025-2026: Unlocking Your Leadership Potential!

Join us for Administration Basics, a dynamic leadership series designed to ignite your passion, sharpen your administrative skills, and strengthen your program's foundation!

Fall 2025: Leadership Series

Featuring the inspiring Dr. Jason Bryant along with Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney from the Truman Pierce Institute, This 5-part journey is all about discovering the leader within you:

- Session 1: Understanding Your Leadership Style
- Session 2: Your Leadership Journey
- Session 3: Heroes Get Tired Too: Caring for Self and Staff
- Session 4: Developing Your Leadership Profile
- Session 5: We're All in this Together! Creating a Culture in which Staff feel Heard, Valued, and Supported

Starting Strong in the New Year!

Winter 2026: Strengthening Your Business & Educational Practices

Get hands-on with the tools and insights every successful administrator needs:

- Day 1: Strengthening Business Practices: Budgets and Schoolification: A Forum Discussion
- Day 2: Strengthening Business Practices: Financial Forms and DAP: What's That?
- Day 3: Strengthening Business Practices: Marketing and Children, Children, What Do You See? (I See a Professional Educator)

Whether you're a new administrator or a seasoned leader, this series offers powerful strategies, expert insights, and meaningful connections to elevate your leadership and transform your program. Don't miss it!

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)

November 4-6, 2025 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

October '25 TRAINING

Move, Play, Grow: Building Infant and Toddler Brains Through Movement and Play

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

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This session explores the essential role of movement and play in early childhood development. Participants will discover how everyday activities—from tummy time to toddler tumbling—build strong brains, support milestone achievement, and foster lifelong learning skills.

Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety

October 4, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | 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.

Preschool Connections Session 1: Tiny Moments, Big impact: Seamless Transitions in Preschool

October 7, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 6 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Transitions are the invisible thread that weaves together a successful preschool day, ensuring young learners move smoothly from one activity to the next. This engaging session will equip teachers with practical strategies and playful transition techniques that foster a positive classroom flow. By the end of this training, educators will walk away with ready-to-use transition ideas that captivate young minds and make every moment count.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF: 2 Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF: 6

October 8, 2025 | 12:30pm-2:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 2, 6 | 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 and Identify signs of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma and discuss ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Where the Wiggles Meet Literacy

October 9, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This interactive session will empower early childhood educators with fun, movement-based strategies that seamlessly blend literacy and physical activity. Discover how to boost language and motor skill development while keeping wiggly learners engaged and excited.

Taking A Trip from Minimum Standards to Performance Standards

October 10, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

CCDF: 18, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 1, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Deborah A. Gamble

The licensing process and the Child Care Licensing Performance Standards that all licensed facilities must meet will be discussed. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Engaging Our Sensory Systems Balance and Movement

October 14, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

In this session, we will delve into the critical roles of vestibular and proprioceptive systems in early childhood development, focusing on their impact on balance, movement, and overall sensory integration.

Admin Basics Session 1 – Understanding Your Leadership Style

October 15, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Jason Bryant

Learn about transformational, servant, democratic, autocratic, and laissez-faire leadership styles. Which type of leader are you?

Its OK to be Angry: Understanding Anger in Toddlers

October 16, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: LD, PDG | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Anger is a normal part of child development, especially in toddlers who are still developing their language skills and how to navigate their own emotions in the world around them. 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.

Reality Bites: Biting in The Early Childhood Classroom

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

CCDF: 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Biting is one of the most challenging behaviors faced in early childhood settings. This training session explores the developmental reasons behind why young children bite and provides practical, compassionate strategies to prevent and respond to biting incidents. Participants will learn how to support children, engage families, and maintain a safe and positive classroom environment. Through discussion, reflection, and real-world scenarios, educators will leave better equipped to handle biting behavior with confidence and understanding.

The GPS to Infant Caregiving: Understanding Infant Behavior

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA | CDA: 3, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Infants | Intermediate | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This course provides tools to understand infant behavior, nonverbal communication, and its effect on the caregiver-infant interaction and relationship. Provides strategies to inform caregivers of infant states/behaviors and the impact on their relationship.

Infection Control and Administration of Medication

CCDF: 1, 3

October 22, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 1, 3 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1, 3 | 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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Let's Explore STEM: Engaging STEM in Learning Centers

October 23, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 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. Gain practical insights and hands-on approaches to enrich children's learning experiences, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for STEM disciplines from an early age.

Make A Circle

October 25, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Jessica Stinson

GRECS will host a community screening of MAKE A CIRCLE, a powerful documentary highlighting the voices of child care providers who are reshaping how society values early education. The event will feature a live podcast recording and panel discussion with industry and community leaders. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Basics of Behavior Management

October 27, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Abigail Baxter

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

They Wont Listen! Understanding The Brain's Response to Stress in Children (And Adults)

October 28, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

Designed for early childhood educators to deepen their understanding of the neuroscience behind stress, conflict and misbehaviors in young children. Participants will learn to recognize when children are neurochemically unable to learn, and develop practical strategies to respond effectively. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

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

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CD | School-Agers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Everyone loves Social Media! Come learn how to inform yourself, teachers and parents about the advantages and disadvantages of social media and how to stay safe on the internet. Participants will discuss what mental health is and how social media affects one's mental health.

November '25 TRAINING

How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button

November 1, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 7, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-Agers | Basic | Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100 Bay Minette

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Caring for high-energy, always-on children can be both rewarding and exhausting. This dynamic session explores strategies for supporting children who seem to be in constant motion. Participants will learn practical tools for creating structured, supportive environments, promoting emotional regulation, and building strong caregiver-child relationships. Perfect for caregivers seeking to better understand and respond to children who never seem to slow down.

Getting Started 2025

November 4-6, 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, 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!**

Preschool Connections Session 2: Integrating Art into Preschool Learning

November 4, 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 | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Explore engaging ways to integrate art into preschool learning through books, holidays, and building a year-long portfolio.

First-Aid and CPR Training

November 5, 2025 | 12:00pm-4:00pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Healthy Childcare Alabama Staff

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**

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

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

CCDF: 6, 11 | AL Pathways: HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will examine the roles and responsibilities of child care providers in recognizing, reporting, and responding to child abuse and neglect within the early child care setting. 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.

Wiggle! Tap! Clap!

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, PDG | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Through rhythmic movements and catchy rhymes, fingerplays support language development, motor skills, creativity and self-regulation. You'll leave this interactive session with a variety of simple, effective fingerplays to make learning fun and memorable!

November '25 TRAINING

Continued..

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

November 7, 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**

Letter by Letter, Page by Page (APT)

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

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

PRESENTER: APT Staff

This engaging training is designed to help preschool educators build strong foundations in early literacy. Discover playful, developmentally appropriate strategies to support letter recognition, emergent writing, and early reading skills in young learners. This training will utilize the PBS KIDS show Super Why and various other APT and PBS resources.

What A Pre-K Day Looks Like

November 11, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: QCCL, PDG | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Pamela Bell

Participants will gain practical strategies to create a balanced, child-centered daily routine that aligns with early learning standards while nurturing cognitive, social-emotional, and physical growth. We'll examine the "why" behind the structure of the day and explore how to foster engagement, reduce transitions, and make intentional teaching moments. PreK educators will explore what it truly means to create a developmentally appropriate day for young learners.

Admin Basics Session 2 – Your Leadership Journey

November 12, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Jason Bryant

Review main ideas from session 1 and discuss connections you have made as you have grown in your leadership role.

Admin Basics Session 3 - Heroes Get Tired Too: Caring for Self and Staff

November 12, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Michelle Denney and Sandy Resa

Educators work hard to bring their best selves to the classroom every day while they juggle individual student needs, set ambitious goals, and often work long hours. The stress level of teachers can affect their health and well-being as well as their job satisfaction and teacher retention. It is essential for educators to take time to prevent burnout, promote health, and protect themselves from the negative effects of stress. Discover strategies and practices to take care of self and staff, creating a positive environment for all.

Tackling Transitions With Toddlers

November 13, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: PDG, QCCL | Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

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

Growth Mindset

November 17, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: PDG, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

A growth mindset fosters motivation, resilience and persistence. A fixed mindset kills it. In this session we will learn powerful ways that we can nurture growth mindset in ourselves and the children with teach.

I Am Here, Now What?

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

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: PDG, CD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

To help early childhood educators gain practical strategies to create and implement effective, child-centered arrival routines that encourage smooth transitions, foster a sense of belonging, and establish a positive tone for the day.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry

November 19, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Bernice Pettway, DHR

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Moving With The Brain In Mind

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

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Did you know that the brain and movement are linked for development for infants and toddlers? In this two-hour training, we will discuss the importance of rolling, crawling and walking for brain development. Let's get moving!

CDA Session 1: Orientation, CDA Overview & Training Hours Review- Must attend Orientation

November 21, 2025 | 12:00pm-3:00pm 3 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

This orientation session will welcome participants, introduce the CDA process, and review training hour documentation for any professional early child care educator considering applying for the CDA credential. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

CDA Session 2: Professional Portfolio Preparation

November 24, 2025 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

Guides candidates in writing competency statements, gathering resources, and crafting a professional philosophy statement. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

CDA Session 3: Finalize Portfolio, Review Test

November 24, 2025 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 5 | DHR: CCPF | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

To support early childhood educators in completing the CDA credentialing process through a final review of their professional portfolio, preparation for the CDA exam, and information about financial assistance through the TEACH Scholarship. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

December '25 TRAINING

Biting, Tantrums and Other Challenging Behaviors

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE, ICFC | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: PDG, CD | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will recognize what behaviors are typical for children of certain ages and how adults can respond in ways that diminish negative behaviors and prevent future occurrences.

Moving With The Brain In Mind

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

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

Did you know that the brain and movement are linked for development for infants and toddlers? In this two-hour training, we will discuss the importance of rolling, crawling and walking for brain development. Let's get moving!

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

December 3, 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**

Preparing For The Unexpected CCDF: 5, 7

December 3, 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

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. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions CCDF: 4 and Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, Including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants CCDF: 8

December 4, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Healthy Childcare Alabama Staff

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**

Look What I Made!

December 4, 2025 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Preschool Art is not just about creating pretty pictures. It's a journey of discovery, learning and self-expression for preschool children. Let's look at how to foster free exploration with art materials.

How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button

December 6, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Caring for high-energy, always-on children can be both rewarding and exhausting. This dynamic session explores strategies for supporting children who seem to be in constant motion. Participants will learn practical tools for creating structured, supportive environments, promoting emotional regulation, and building strong caregiver-child relationships. Perfect for caregivers seeking to better understand and respond to children who never seem to slow down.

Raising Readers (APT)

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

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Lennox Steele

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Suess. With PBSKids resources, we will discover ways to introduce, facilitate and support literacy and reading with young children.

December '25 TRAINING

Continued..

Preschool Connections Session 3: Preschool Counting Collections to Build Math Skills

December 9, 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 | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Discover how counting collections foster math skills, helping young learners explore numbers, patterns, and problem-solving strategies.

Admin Basics Session 4 – Developing Your Leadership Profile

December 10, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am **2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

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

PRESENTER: Dr. Jason Bryant

Develop a deeper understanding of your leadership style, your strengths, and the supports you need.

Admin Basics Session 5: We're All in this Together! Creating a Culture in Which Staff Feel Heard, Valued, and Supported

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

CCDF: 16, 18, 19 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF | ALL | Intermediate | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Michelle Denney and Sandy Resa

“The best leaders are those who inspire and empower others to reach their full potential.” (Oprah Winfrey) 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 in which every team member's voice is not only heard but celebrated.

Music, Melody and Emotions

December 11, 2025 | 6:30pm-8:30pm **2 hrs/0.2 CEUs**

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3, 7 | DHR: CD | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: LaDanika York

Music can be a powerful tool for helping preschoolers understand and manage their emotions. In this 2-hour training, the participants will learn how to support children's various emotional expressions while listening to various genres of music. Through group discussions and activities, the participants will learn how to build empathy and how to assist children with emotional regulation through music.

Communicating Through Behaviors

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Behavior is a form of communication but is often difficult to translate. In this training, participants will learn ways to observe and interpret behaviors to better meet the needs of the child through hands on activities. This training will utilize the PBS KIDS series Sesame Street and various other APT and PBS resources. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>Move, Play, Grow: Building Infant and Toddler Brains Through Movement and Play</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	3	4 <i>Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Washington County Public Library- Large Training Room
6 	7 <i>Preschool Connections Session 1: Tiny Moments, Big Impact: Seamless Transitions In Preschool</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	8 <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices CCDF:2 Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma CCDF:6</i> ; 12:30pm-2:30pm; Mobile	9 <i>Where The Wiggles Meet Literacy</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	10 <i>Taking a Trip From Minimum Standards to Performance Standards</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile 	11 
13 	14 <i>Engaging Our Sensory Systems Balance and Movement</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	15 <i>Admin Basics: Session 1 – Understanding Your Leadership Style</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	16 <i>Its OK To Be Angry: Understanding Anger In Toddlers</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	17	18 
20	21 <i>Reality Bites: Biting in The Early Childhood Classroom</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile <i>The GPS to Infant Caregiving: Understanding Infant Behavior</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	22 <i>Infection Control and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	23 <i>Let's Explore STEM: Engaging STEM in Learning Centers</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	24 	25 <i>Make A Circle</i> ; 9:00am-12:00pm; Mobile
27 <i>Basics of Behavior Management</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	28 <i>They Won't Listen! Understanding The Brain's Response to Stress in Children (and Adults)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar 	29 <i>Safe and Sound: Safe Screens and Sound Minds (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	30	31	

November 2025

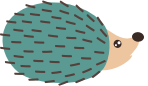


GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 					1 <i>How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Coastal Alabama Community College Classroom C-100, Bay Minette
3 	4 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 1) CTF;</i> 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Preschool Connections Session 2: Integrating Art into Preschool Learning;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	5 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 2) CTF;</i> 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>First-Aid and CPR Training;</i> 12:00pm-4:00pm; Mobile <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Early Child Care CCDF;</i> 6, 11 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	6 <i>Getting Started 2025 (Day 3) CTF;</i> 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Wiggle! Tap! Clap!;</i> 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	7 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	8 
10 <i>Letter by Letter, Page by Page (APT);</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	11 <i>What a Pre-K Day Looks Like;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	12 <i>Admin Basics: Session 2 – Your Leadership Journey;</i> 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Admin Basics: Session 3 – Heroes Get Tired Too: Caring for Self and Staff;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	13 <i>Tackling Transitions with Toddlers;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	14	15 
17 <i>Growth Mindset;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	18 <i>I Am Here, Now What?;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	19 <i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information;</i> 4:00pm-6:00pm; Webinar	20 <i>Moving With The Brain In Mind;</i> 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	21 <i>CDA Session 1: Orientation, CDA Overview & Training Hours Review;</i> 12:00pm-3:00pm; Mobile	22 
24 <i>Session 2: Professional Portfolio Preparation;</i> 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	25 <i>Session 3: Finalize Portfolio, Review Test;</i> 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	26 	27 GRECS and EHS Closed for Thanksgiving 	28	29 

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

December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  	2 <i>Biting, Tantrums and Other Challenging Behaviors</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile <i>Moving With The Brain In Mind</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	3 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher with Quality Early Care and Education</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Preparing For The Unexpected</i> CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	4 <i>A Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions</i> CCDF: 4 and <i>Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials, including Correct Disposal of Bio-Contaminants</i> CCDF: 8; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Look What I Made!</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	5	6 <i>How to Care for Children with No "Off" Button</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville 
8 <i>Raising Readers (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	9 <i>Preschool Connections Session 3: Preschool Counting Collections to Build Math Skills</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	10 <i>Admin Basics: Session 4 – Developing Your Leadership Profile</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Admin Basics: Session 5 – We're All In This Together! Creating A Culture In Which Staff Feel Heard, Valued, and Supported</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	11 <i>Music, Melody and Emotions</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	12	13 
15 	16 <i>Communicating Through Behaviors (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	17	18 	19	20
22	23	24 	25 GRECS and EHS Closed for Christmas Day	26	27
29	30 	31 GRECS & EHS Closed for New Years Eve! 			

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

Get a Grip on Fine Motor Development

Many children enter Kindergarten with inadequate fine motor skills, poor pencil grasps, and unorthodox letter formation habits because they begin writing before they are developmentally ready. Writing is one of the most complex skills a human being performs with his or her hands. Developmental readiness for writing starts with gross motor movement and play—not worksheets and pencils!

Engaging in gross motor activity supports fine motor development by facilitating children's ability to manage their bodies through space and increasing trunk control. These foundational skills are crucial for successfully sitting in a chair in order to write. Gross motor activities include, but are not limited to: plenty of outdoor play, running, jumping, swinging, bike-riding, ball play, dancing, and crawling.

Fine Motor Development

Prior to grasping a pencil correctly and learning how to write efficiently, young children develop the skills needed for writing through engaging in a wide variety of hands-on play experiences with toys and tools and participating in activities of daily living, such as self-feeding, dressing, and performing hygiene tasks. As administrators, educators, and parents our role is to understand and facilitate appropriate fine motor development in order to support future writing performance of young children. Important prerequisites for writing include establishing hand dominance, the ability to cross the midline, and developing the tripod pencil grasp.



Incorporate Vertical Surfaces

We usually think of having students work and play at fine motor tasks on horizontal surfaces such as a desktop. However, a vertical surface is a more natural and preferred plane for young children.

There are a variety of easy to access vertical surfaces in the classroom or at home. Once you start looking you'll find many! For example:

- Chalkboard
- Easel
- Walls
- Filing Cabinet (instant magnet center)
- Refrigerator, Washer/Dryer
- Table (tipped on its side)



Scissor Skill Development Goes Hand in Hand with Fine Motor Development

Like writing, proficiency with scissors requires an advanced level of fine motor control. Before a child attempts to use scissors be sure that the necessary ground work is in place. Here are some easy cutting tips and strategies to increase proficiency when learning how to use scissors. Start with crumpling, ripping, and snipping, before moving on to cutting.



Positioned for Success: Strategies to Try

Positioned for success means that the thumb is facing up on the hand holding the scissors and that the arm is moving away from the body when cutting instead of toward it. Try these strategies when the hand or arm is curved or being used in an unorthodox position:

1. Color code the thumbhole on scissors by wrapping it with tape in a contrasting color. Electrical tape, available in a variety of colors works well.
2. Tape paper to edge of desk or middle of easel so student can cut upwardly and make "fringe." This is a great technique to correctly position the arm for cutting.
3. Have the child "hold" a small roll of paper towel or newspaper under the cutting arm to ensure that the arm stays in the correct position.



Scan the QR Code
to continue reading
about
"Get a Grip on Fine
Motor Development"

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

November 19, 2025 | 4:00pm-6:00pm

2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Bernice Pettway, DHR

Participants will discuss the goal of Alabama pathways and how it can help early childhood professionals. Tutorial on the PDR. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

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

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.

Taking a Trip from Minimum Standards to Performance Standards

Join Deborah A. Gamble, State DHR Program Manager, Office of Training for Child Care Services for a dynamic session exploring the journey from simply meeting minimum requirements to the Child Care Licensing Performance Standards that all licensed facilities must meet. Discover the licensing process, gain clarity on expectations for all licensed facilities, and learn how to raise the bar for quality care.



Taking A Trip from Minimum Standards to Performance Standards

October 10, 2025 | 9:30am-11:30am

2 hrs

CCDF: 18, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 1, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Deborah A. Gamble

The licensing process and the Child Care Licensing Performance Standards that all licensed facilities must meet will be discussed. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

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!

ECE & Parenting PODCASTS

A few topics for Parents:

- "New Season, Familiar Voices" w/ Joshua Jones
- "In Good Hands: What to Look for When Choosing Child Care"
- "Real Talk: You Can Be Calm AND Hold the Line"
- "The Invisible Load: Why Parenting Can Feel So Heavy"

A few topics for ECE Professionals:

- "Respect the Role: Shifting How We Show Up in Early Ed" w/ Mr. Ty
- "From the Frontlines of Early Learning: Real Talk About Play" w/ Amanda Morgan
- "Outdoor Play Problems: What's Really Getting in the Way?"
- "Good Isn't Good Enough: Striving for Greatness in Education"



New Episodes Weekly



★ Season 3 is out NOW!



APT Fall Online Training

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Online

October 6 - November 23, 2025

Exploring Literacy Development with PBS KIDS!

October 6 - October 27, 2025

Kindergarten Readiness: Essential Math Skills for Preschoolers

October 6 - October 27, 2025

Exploring STEM with School-Aged Children

November 3 - November 24, 2025

Exploring STEM with School-Aged Children

November 3 - November 24, 2025

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 : **September 15, 2025**



APT's On-Demand Training Catalog

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



ALABAMA'S NEW SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

Benefits for Child Care Centers, Family and Group Home Providers

Availability

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

Reimbursement

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

Inclusion Support

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



About the Subsidy

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

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



The Resource Place



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Call today to make your appointment with us!

Browse our comprehensive lending library and workroom where you'll find:

**Children's Books * Teacher Resource Books* Outdoor Play Materials*
Manipulatives* Puzzles* Puppets* Big Books * Laminating Machine *
Bulletin Board Paper and More!!!!**

**Monday | 9am-4pm
Tuesday | 9am-4pm
Wednesday | Closed
Thursday | 9am-4pm
Friday | 9am-2pm**

**Call
251- 473-1060**

**Scan to sign
up now!**



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

Interested in a Membership?

Visit our website at www.grecs.org and fill
out our online application today!

If you need more assistance or have any
questions,
please contact

Marybeth Fields at 251-473-1060 ext 1702

**The Lending Library
is now online!**

Our library and resources are available
online to check out and reserve at your
convenience! More information to come,
subscribe to our newsletters to stay up-to-
date!



Register today.
Scan and select the
"getting started" tab.



*Lift them higher with quality early
care and education.*



334-604-6260



info@alabamaqualitystars.org

SUPPORT CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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



Gulf Regional Childcare Management Agency, Inc.

3101 International Drive, Building 6 Mobile, AL 36606

Ph. 251.473.1060

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Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



Make sure to like,
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the latest happenings and
events!



November 27, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 31, 2025

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
New Years Eve