

Early Learning News

April, May, June 2026

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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 see someone
without a *Smile*,
give them one of
Yours!

—Dolly Parton

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

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

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

Together we can make a difference!



Dear Blue Day - Blue is the color of prevention, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the national "Wear Blue Day" on **Friday April 3rd!** By wearing blue, people throughout the state can demonstrate an awareness of and commitment to our shared responsibility for

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

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



GRECS will plant a pinwheel garden to kick off Child Abuse Prevention month. Let's watch them whirl!

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





naeyc
Week of the Young Child™

April 11th-17th

#WOYC26

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

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

Kick-off is Saturday **April 11th**. Take that day to prepare your activities for the following week, email your parents so they can plan for Family Friday activities and plan a virtual event with your social media community! The important thing is that we're celebrating the potential of ALL young children to learn, grow and thrive!

This is your time to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via social media channels. Post your activities on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #WOYC26!

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

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



MUSIC MONDAY

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

FEATURED CLASS

Whirl, Twirl, and Sing: Bringing Music to Life in Early Learning

April 7, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 13TH

#woyc26
naeyc.org/events/woyc



TASTY TUESDAY

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

FEATURED CLASS

Eating Through The Alphabet

April 14, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 14TH

#woyc26
naeyc.org/events/woyc



WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

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

FEATURED CLASS

Handling Tricky Conversations

April 15, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 15TH

#woyc26
naeyc.org/events/woyc



ARTSY THURSDAY

On Artsy Thursday, celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative play. create and share photos of your children's creations on social media using the hashtag #woyc25.

FEATURED CLASSES

Colorful Creations (APT)

April 9, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | 2 hrs | 0.2 CEUs

APRIL 16TH

#woyc26
naeyc.org/events/woyc



FAMILY FRIDAY

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories about your family on social media using the hashtag #woyc26

APRIL 17TH

#woyc26
naeyc.org/events/woyc



Get To Know Our Training Sites and Locations!

When Registering for training classes, please make note of the time & locations of the session. Classes are held in 7 counties - Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe & Washington.

Baldwin County

Daphne Public Library

Kids Plus CDC

Goodwill Community Center

The Learning Tree at "First Fairhope"

Coastal Alabama Community College, Bay Minette Campus

Country Day School

Clarke County

Jackson City Hall

Conecuh County

David Burt Agriculture Center

Future Achievers

532 S. Main St Evergreen, AL 36401

Escambia County

Coastal Alabama Community College

Flomaton Public Library

Monroe County

Monroe County Public Library

Patty Pat's 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 2026

Looking for DHR CCDF Health and Safety Training Courses? We've got you covered for this quarter in April, May and June 2026!

- **April 22:** *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* CCDF: 11 (CTF); 9:30am-10:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 22:** *Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children* CCDF: 9; 10:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **April 29:** *Playground Safety* CCDF: 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **May 13:** *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; 9:30am-11:30am; **Mobile**
- **May 27:** *First-Aid and CPR Training*; 8:30am-12:30pm; **Mobile**
- **June 22:** *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; 12:00pm-2:00pm; **Mobile**
- **June 24:** *Infection Control and Administration of Medication* CCDF: 1, 3; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **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)

April 28th-30th, 2026 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

Highlighted Courses

April, May and June 2026



FROM ME TO WE: CULTIVATING A CARING CLASSROOM CULTURE

Discover practical ways to move students "from me to we" by cultivating a classroom culture grounded in empathy, kindness, and gratitude. In this session, you'll explore strategies and activities that build stronger connections, encourage caring behaviors, and help students develop the social-emotional skills they need to thrive together.

May 26, 2026
6:00pm-8:00pm

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways:
CGD, ICFC | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD,
PDG | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties
Webinar

Presenter: Sandy Resa and Michelle
Denney TPI



Register Now

For more info
see class listing,
or scan QR code.

PROFESSIONALISM IN ECE: BEE STRONG & PREPARE FOR WHAT'S NEXT



To strengthen educator's understanding of professional conduct, ethical responsibility, self-reflection and renewal, empowering them to finish the school year with integrity and enter the next year refreshed, confident and prepared.

June 11, 2026
6:30pm-8:30pm

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD
| CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: CCPF, QCCL | ALL
| Basic | GRECS Training Room,
Mobile

Presenter: Wanda Belt



Register Now

For more info
see class listing,
or scan QR code.

Provider Appreciation Day

May 8, 2026

On May 8, we celebrate Provider Appreciation Day, a special day to recognize the hard work, dedication, and invaluable role that child care providers play in the lives of children and families. These caregivers, teachers, and program leaders create safe, nurturing environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

Join us in saying **THANK YOU** to all the child care providers who give their time, energy, and heart to shaping a brighter future. Whether it's a simple note, a small gift, or words of encouragement, let's make sure they know how deeply valued they are.

Happy Provider Appreciation Day to all who dedicate themselves to the well-being of young children—you are truly appreciated!



Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4-8, 2026



Teachers are the heart of early learning! Every day, they shape young minds, foster curiosity, and build strong foundations for lifelong success. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we honor the dedication, patience, and passion of our early childhood educators who go above and beyond to nurture the next generation.

A simple "thank you" can mean the world to a teacher. Take a moment this week to show appreciation—write a heartfelt note, share a kind word, or give a small token of gratitude. Whether they're helping little ones take their first steps in learning or offering a comforting hug, early childhood teachers make a lasting impact.

To all our incredible educators—thank you for your unwavering commitment, creativity, and love for learning. You are truly making a difference every single day!



April '26 TRAINING

Preparing the Early Childhood Learning Environment: Setting the Stage for Learning and Growth

April 1, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 19, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 6, 8 | DHR: CD, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Equip early childhood educators with knowledge and strategies to intentionally prepare learning environments that foster safety, engagement, and holistic development in young children.

Music Monday Whirl, Twirl, and Sing: Bringing Music to Life in Early Learning #WOYC26

April 7, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

This training will equip you with innovative strategies to introduce musical strategies through singing songs with hands-on musical activities. Learn how to create a learning environment that fosters a love for whirling, twirling, and singing along!

Fingerplay Fiesta: Developing Language, Motor Skills, and More

April 8, 2026 | 4:00pm-6:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will explore the benefits of finger plays in nurturing academic goals and executive function, using them during transitions, engaging children's brains and bodies, and integrating them with math and literacy standards.

Colorful Creations (APT)

April 9, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Fostering creativity and exploration with toddlers can be simple and fun. Let's learn about the benefits of early creativity, some simple activities for the toddler classroom and ways to use children's natural curiosity for purposeful early art experiences.

Tasty Tuesday- Eating Through The Alphabet #WOYC2026

April 14, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 1, 2, 8 | DHR: LD, HSUP | Preschoolers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Snack and learn playful food-based routines that build letter knowledge, vocabulary, and joyful early literacy.

Work Together Wednesday: Handling Tricky Conversations WOYC2026

April 15, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD | CDA: 4, 5, 6 | DHR: QCCL, CCPF | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles and Paula Reese

Participants will navigate "tricky" conversations as an essential leadership skill for early childhood educators. Participants will explore the psychology of communication breakdowns, the impact of emotional intelligence on conflict resolution. Examine real-world scenarios—ranging from sharing developmental concerns to addressing workplace friction and unpaid fees—learners will develop the confidence to preserve relationships while asserting professional boundaries with staff and families.

Connections That Count: Helping Every Child Feel Seen, Safe and Significant

April 16, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

When children feel seen, safe, and significant, they're more likely to thrive—emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. Join us to learn practical strategies, low-risk connection routines, and easy-to-use tools that build strong relationships and positive group culture. We will share simple yet powerful ways to foster a sense of belonging and help every child feel that they matter. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Stress Management for Early Childhood Professionals

April 18, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: HSN, LEE | CDA: 1, 6, 8 | DHR: HSUP, QCCL | ALL | Basic | Monroe County Public Library

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Early childhood professionals face unique demands. This session offers realistic stress management tools to help educators care for themselves while continuing to care for young children.

The Power of Music

April 21, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

This training explores how music and movement can enhance children's cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development. Participants will gain hands-on experience incorporating movement-based activities into everyday early childhood practice.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

CCDF: 11 (CTF)

April 22, 2026 | 9:30am-10:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Participants will identify ways to prevent abuse and neglect from occurring in the early childhood setting and provide steps to reporting suspected abuse and neglect. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

We are dedicated to providing the highest quality experience for child care providers seeking assistance and training that enhances the quality of care for children in south Alabama. With the support of our funding partners, all GRECS training is offered at no cost to participants.

Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children

CCDF: 9 (CTF)

April 22, 2026 | 10:30am-11:30am 1 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Judy Cunningham

Training to provide participants with basic information on safely transporting children. Participants will identify Department of Human Resources (DHR) performance standards for transporting children and discuss safety issues when loading and unloading children. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Multisensory Learning Techniques: What Is It? (APT)

April 23, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3 | DHR: LD, CD | School-Agers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Valerie Silcox

Not all children learn the same way. In this two-hour training, we will discuss multisensory learning techniques that will support visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile elements to create a more supportive learning environment for all children. Utilizing the PBS KIDS show Skillville, the participants will participate in interactive activities, group work and demonstrations.

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

April 24, 2026 | 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*

Getting Started 2026

April 28-30 | 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 4 for more information. *You must attend all sessions to receive credit!*

Trauma-Responsive Care for Infants and Toddlers in Child Care, Session 5

April 28, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 20 | AL Pathways: HSN, PPD | CDA: 1, 6 | DHR: HSUP, CCPF | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

This session in the trauma-responsive care series, session 5, will focus on infant/toddler caregiver wellness and well-being. Caregivers will explore how stress and trauma may impact them and how they can safeguard the most important protective factors—themselves. Participants will explore the strategies for building self-reflection and general workforce wellness.

Playground Safety CCDF: 5, 7

April 29, 2026 | 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

Outdoor play is essential for young children's physical health, social development, and overall well-being—but it also requires intentional planning and vigilant supervision. This training supports early childhood teachers in creating safe, engaging playground environments by focusing on active supervision strategies, hazard identification, age-appropriate equipment use, and effective risk management. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (APT)

April 30, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Wanda Belt

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.

May '26 TRAINING

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

May 4, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD, 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.

Ways To Use Play-Doh Effectively

May 5, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Come explore simple Play-Doh strategies that strengthen fine-motor skills, spark creativity, and support early learning.

Moving with the Brain in Mind (APT)

May 6, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | 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!

May '26 TRAINING

Continued..

Intentional Wellness Through Rest and Self-Compassion

May 7, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: PPD | CDA: 1, 3 | DHR: HSUP, CCPF | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Our days are filled with responsibilities – work, school, family, friends, and more. While responsibilities must often take priority, it is essential for our own wellness that we intentionally incorporate rest and self-compassion into our daily routines.

Communicating Through Behaviors (APT)

May 12, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

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**

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

May 13, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 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**

Children, Children What Do You See? “I See a Teacher Looking at Me!”

May 14, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will focus on equipping early childhood educators with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for providing high-quality care and education to young children. Drawing on best practices and research-based approaches, this training will help participants develop the essential qualities of a highly effective early childhood teacher.

Oh, The Places We Go When We Play: How Play Shapes Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Growth

May 19, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, PDG | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Participants will focus on equipping early childhood educators This professional development session explores the essential role of play in supporting whole-child development. Early childhood professionals will examine how intentional, high-quality play experiences enhance cognitive skills, strengthen social connections, and nurture emotional resilience. Through interactive discussions, real-world examples, and hands-on activities, participants will deepen their understanding of how play functions as a foundational pathway for learning. Educators will leave equipped with practical strategies to create intentional, developmentally appropriate play environments that foster curiosity, confidence, and meaningful learning.

Constructive Play: Learning Through Block Play

May 21, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Victoria Bolton

Cognitive, physical, and social benefits occur through block play. During this session, participants will design and demonstrate activities that promote learning through block play.

From Me to We: Cultivating A Caring Classroom Culture

May 21, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney TPI

Discover practical ways to move students “from me to we” by cultivating a classroom culture grounded in empathy, kindness, and gratitude. In this session, you’ll explore strategies and activities that build stronger connections, encourage caring behaviors, and help students develop the social-emotional skills they need to thrive together. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

First-Aid and CPR Training

May 27, 2026 | 8:30am-12:30pm 4 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters

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**

Leadership and Teamwork! (APT)

May 28, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: PPD, MA | CDA: 1, 4, 5, 6 | DHR: CCPF, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: APT Staff

This is a collaborative training designed to strengthen leadership skills and foster effective teamwork among preschool educators. Participants will explore strategies for communication, collaboration, and shared decision-making to create a positive, supportive classroom and school environment. This training will utilize the PBS KIDS show Donkey Hodie and various other APT and PBS resources.

We are dedicated to providing the highest quality experience for child care providers seeking assistance and training that enhances the quality of care for children in south Alabama. With the support of our funding partners, all GRECS training is offered at no cost to participants.

June '26 TRAINING

Creating Spaces That Support Positive Behavior

June 9, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, ICFC | CDA: 1, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile
PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney TPI

Looking for effective positive guidance strategies and practical ways to minimize challenging behaviors? This interactive session addresses how the physical environment can be a strong ally in behavior management and includes tips for using responsive guidance techniques that honor children's developmental needs. Participants will gain practical tools to transform both their guidance approaches and physical spaces to prevent challenging behaviors before they start.

Director's Forum: It's All About Relationships: Build and Support Others

June 10, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: N/A | AL Pathways: MA | CDA: 5 | DHR: AM | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile
PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney TPI

Building and supporting relationships is crucial for personal and professional growth. It involves effective communication, active listening, empathy, and being there for others. Strong relationships can lead to mutual benefits and a positive environment for everyone involved. How do you build relationships with colleagues? This session will offer ideas and allow participants to share their successes.

Professionalism in ECE: BEE Strong & Prepare For What's Next

June 11, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD | CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: CCPE, QCCL | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile
PRESENTER: Wanda Belt

To strengthen educator's understanding of professional conduct, ethical responsibility, self-reflection and renewal, empowering them to finish the school year with integrity and enter the next year refreshed, confident and prepared.

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

June 12, 2026 | 12:00pm-2:00pm 2 hrs

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

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*

Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety

June 13, 2026 | 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 | GRECS Training Room, Mobile
PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

In this session, participants will discuss effective supervision strategies that promote safety and well-being in early childhood settings.

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

June 15, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, CGD | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, QCCL | 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.

Rhythm and Rhymes (APT)

June 16, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

Let's talk about how we can create early language experiences using music, nursery rhymes and simple songs. We will learn the importance of using language each day for a foundation of learning success and explore free PBS resources to use in the classroom and to share with families.

The Power of Music

June 18, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | ALL | Basic | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope
PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

This training explores how music and movement can enhance children's cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development. Participants will gain hands-on experience incorporating movement-based activities into everyday early childhood practice.

June '26 TRAINING

Continued..

Setting Up Your Classroom for Success!

June 23, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Susanne Napp, M.Ed.

Balancing effective classroom management with a demanding schedule is a common challenge for educators. This training provides the tools you need to streamline your daily tasks while fostering an environment where young children can truly thrive. You'll walk away with practical, real-world strategies that you can implement in your classroom starting tomorrow.

Infection Control and Administration of Medication

CCDF:1, 3

June 24, 2026 | 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. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry - PDR Information

June 24, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm 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*

Creating Calm: Co-Regulation and Building Resilience

June 25, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17, 20 | AL Pathways: CGD | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

In this course, teachers will explore the connection between co-regulation and resilience in infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Educators will learn how to provide emotional support and model calming behaviors to help young children navigate stress and build resilience.

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

June 26, 2026 | 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*

Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

June 29, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

This introduction is designed for any professional early child care educator considering applying for the CDA credential. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Employee Retention: Building and Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment (APT)

June 30, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 18 | AL Pathways: MA | CDA: 5 | DHR: AM | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Valerie Silcox

In today's work environment, building and sustaining a healthy workplace is essential to retaining employees. In this 2-hour training, we will discuss tools and ways to maintain employees effectively and efficiently.

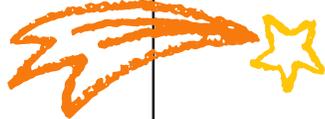
We appreciate your respect of our training policies and procedures. Training policies can be found during the online registration process and at www.grecs.org. We look forward to providing an effective learning environment for all of our participants. Prerequisites and required technology, when applicable, will be communicated to participants prior to the training session, and will be clearly noted in the course description and the official training calendar.

We are dedicated to providing the highest quality experience for child care providers seeking assistance and training that enhances the quality of care for children in south Alabama. With the support of our funding partners, all GRECS training is offered at no cost to participants.

April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month!</p> 		<p>1 <i>Preparing the Early Childhood Learning Environment: Setting the Stage for Learning and Growth</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	2	<p>3 Wear Blue Day! CTF  GRECS & EHS Closed for Good Friday</p>	<p>4 </p>
<p>6 </p>	<p>7 <i>Music Monday-Whirl, Twirl, and Sing: Bringing Music to Life in Early Learning</i> #WOYC26; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>8 <i>Fingerplay Fiesta: Developing Language, Motor Skills, and More</i>; 4:00pm-6:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>9 <i>Colorful Creations (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	10	<p>11 </p>
<p>13  Music Monday #WOYC2026</p>	<p>14 <i>Tasty Tuesday-Eating Through The Alphabet</i> #WOYC2026; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Tasty Tuesday #WOYC2026</p>	<p>15 <i>Work Together Wednesday: Handling Tricky Conversations</i> WOYC 26; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Work Together Wednesday #WOYC2026</p>	<p>16 <i>Connections That Count: Helping Every Child Feel Seen, Safe and Significant</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar Artsy Thursday #WOYC2026</p>	<p>17  Family Friday #WOYC2026</p>	<p>18 <i>Stress Management for Early Childhood Professionals</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library</p>
20	<p>21 <i>The Power of Music</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile </p>	<p>22 <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11 (CTF)</i>; 9:30am-10:30am; Mobile <i>Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF</i>; 9; 10:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	<p>23 <i>Multisensory Learning Techniques: What Is It? (APT)</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile </p>	<p>24 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile</p>	25
<p>27 </p>	<p>28 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 1) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Trauma-Responsive Care for Infants and Toddlers in Child Care, Session 5</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile</p>	<p>29 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 2) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Playground Safety CCDF</i>; 5, 7; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>	<p>30 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 3) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile</p>		<p></p>

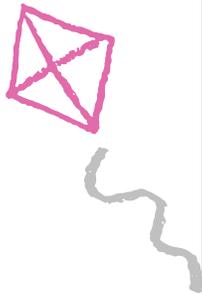
May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
4 <i>Autism 101: What Child Care Providers Need to Know (CTF)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile Teacher Appreciation Week! May 4th -8th, 2026	5 <i>Ways To Use Play-Doh Effectively</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	6 <i>Moving With The Brain in Mind (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	7 <i>Intentional Wellness through Rest and Self-Compassion</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	8  Provider Appreciation Day!	9
11 	12 <i>Communicating Through Behaviors (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	13 <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention and Use of Safe Sleep Practices</i> CCDF: 2 <i>Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma</i> CCDF: 6 ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	14 <i>Children, Children What Do You See? "I See a Teacher Looking at Me!"</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	15	16 
18 	19 <i>Oh, The Places We Go When We Play: How Play Shapes Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Growth</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	20 	21 <i>Constructive Play: Learning Through Block Play</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	22 	23 
25 GRECS & EHS Closed for Memorial Day	26 <i>From Me to We: Cultivating A Caring Classroom Culture</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar 	27 <i>First-Aid and CPR Training</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile	28 <i>Leadership and Teamwork! (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	29 	30

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

June 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3  2026 Gulf Coast Early Childhood Summer Symposium Rooted & Rising	4	5 	6
8	9 <i>Creating Spaces That Support Positive Behavior</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	10 <i>Director's Forum: It's All About Relationships: Build and Support Others</i> ; 10:00am-12:00pm; Mobile	11 <i>Professionalism in ECE: BEE Strong & Prepare For What's Next</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	12 <i>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</i> ; 12:00pm-2:00pm; Mobile	13 <i>Who's Watching the Children: Supervision and Basic Safety</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile
15 <i>Move, Play, Grow: Building Infant and Toddler Brains Through Movement and Play</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	16 <i>Rhythm and Rhymes (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	17 	18 <i>The Power of Music</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	19 GRECS & EHS Closed for Juneteenth	20 
22	23 <i>Setting Up Your Classroom for Success!</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	24 <i>Infection Control and Administration of Medication CCDF: 1, 3</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile <i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information</i> ; 10:00am-12:00pm; Webinar	25 <i>Creating Calm: Co-Regulation and Building Resilience</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	26 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile 	27
29 <i>Introduction to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	30 <i>Employee Retention: Building and Sustaining a Healthy Work Environment (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile				

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

Early Literacy in the Outdoor Classroom

WHERE LEARNING COMES ALIVE



Early literacy, particularly through effective phonics instruction, provides much more than a head start in school; it fundamentally shapes a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development for life. While traditional indoor classrooms are essential, the outdoor environment offers a unique, dynamic setting that significantly enhances these foundational skills.

The outdoor environment naturally supports literacy development by providing rich, multi-sensory experiences that engage children's curiosity and make learning tangible and exciting. The unpredictability and openness of outdoor spaces encourage exploration and communication in ways static indoor environments often cannot. The physical act of exploring the environment and the excitement of discovery make the learning process engaging and memorable, fostering an intrinsic motivation to learn and use language in a real-world context.

By taking education outdoors, educators can tap into a powerful resource that not only reinforces foundational literacy but also nurtures a child's holistic development and lifelong love of learning. The physical act of exploring the environment and the excitement of discovery make the learning process engaging and memorable, fostering an intrinsic motivation to learn and use language in a real-world context.

"In the outdoor classroom, phonics comes alive: the sounds of the natural world become the syllables of our stories, making abstract letters concrete through the simple touch of earth and air."

Three Ways Outdoor Learning Strengthens Literacy

Scan to Read the Full Article!



COLLABORATIVE PLAY AND LANGUAGE PROCESSING



CONTEXTUAL LEARNING AND COMPREHENSION



SENSORY ENGAGEMENT AND LANGUAGE GROWTH



Training Levels

Basic = Most appropriate for entry-level professionals who are new to early childhood and/or school-age care. Basic Level Training covers a foundational understanding and demonstration of developing skills.

Intermediate = Most appropriate for professionals who have at least (2) years of experience and 120 hours of training in child development, and are moving toward more formal education. Intermediate Level Training includes expanding knowledge and application, and refining skills.

Advanced = Most appropriate for professionals who have at least three (3) years of experience and 30 credit hours in child development. Advanced Level Training focuses on a more thorough knowledge and understanding of developmentally appropriate practice and highly effective application and demonstration of skills.

DHR Performance Standards Training Areas

CD = Child Development

HSUP = Health, Safety, and Universal Precautions

QCCL = Quality Child Care and Licensing

CCPF = Child Care Professional and the Family

LD = Language Development

PDG = Positive Discipline and Guidance

AM = Administration and Management

CDA (Child Development Associate) Subject Areas

1. Planning a safe, healthy learning environment
2. Advancing children's physical and intellectual development
3. Supporting children's social and emotional development
4. Building productive relationships with families
5. Managing an effective program
6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
7. Observing and recording children's behavior
8. Understanding principles of child development and learning

Alabama Pathways Core Knowledge Areas (CKA)

CGD = Child Growth and Development

HSN = Health, Safety and Nutrition

LEE = Learning Experiences and Enrichment

DIV = Diversity

COA = Child Observation and Assessment (Planning for Individual Needs)

ICFC = Interaction with Children, Families and Communities

PPD = Personal and Professional Development

MA = Management and Administration

CCDF Training Areas

1. *Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations)*
2. *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention and use of safe sleep practices*
3. *Administration of medication*
4. *Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions*
5. *Building and physical premises safety, including identifying electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic*
6. *Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and abusive head trauma*
7. *Emergency preparedness and response planning for natural or man-caused events*
8. *Handling and storage of hazardous materials, including correct disposal of bio-contaminants*
9. *If applicable, appropriate precautions in transporting children*
10. *First-aid and CPR*
11. *Recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect*
12. *Identifying and serving homeless children and their families*
13. *Promoting the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children, including those related to nutrition and physical activity, using scientifically-based, developmentally appropriate and age appropriate strategies*
14. *Caring for children in geographic areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment*
15. *Implementing behavior strategies, including positive behavior interventions and support models that promote positive social and emotional development and reduce challenging behaviors, including reducing expulsions of preschool-aged children for such behaviors*
16. *Engaging parents and families in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to expand their knowledge, skills and capacity to be meaningful partners in supporting their children's positive development*
17. *Understanding early neurological development*
18. *Using data to guide program improvement*
19. *Supporting positive development of school-age children*
20. *Improving the quality of programs and services for infants and toddlers*

Target Age Groups

Infants = Birth to 12 months

Toddlers = 1 and 2 year olds

Preschoolers = 3 and 4 year olds

School-agers = 5 to 12 year olds

ALL = Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and School-agers





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

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

Things to remember:

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

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!

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry - PDR Information

June 24, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm 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!

Rooted & Rising:
OLD SCHOOL WISDOM. LEADERSHIP REIMAGINED



251-444-1723
www.alabamachildcare.org
aalece@gmail.com

JUNE 2-4, 2026
THE LODGE @ GULF STATE PARK



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.

For Parents:

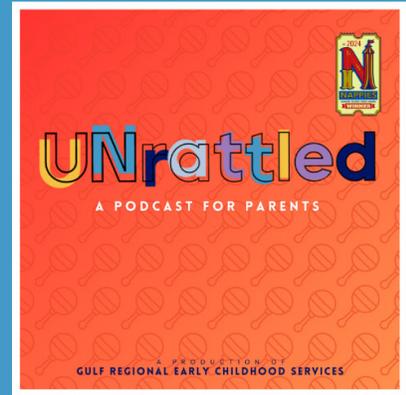
UNrattled focuses on building parental resilience- the strength to adapt, recover, and stay grounded through the everyday stresses of family life. From child development and mental health to community support and work-life balance, we uncover the connections that help parents thrive.

For ECE Professionals:

Tiny Talks explores the importance of play, learning, and connection in a child's earliest years - while shining a light on the educators and caregivers who make it all possible. Whether you're a parent, teacher, or advocate for young children, each episode offers insights, inspiration, and real stories that nurture growth, empathy, and understanding.



New Episodes Weekly



★ Season 3 is out NOW!



APT Spring Online Training

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Online
April 6 – May 24, 2026

NEW! Every Child is Welcome: Fostering Inclusion in the Child Care Setting - CCDF 15
April 6 – April 27, 2026

Scan for Facilitated Courses



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

<https://aptv.org/education/learn-online/>
Registration opens on their website : **March 16, 2026**

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



APT's On-Demand Training Catalog



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

at



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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the latest happenings and
events!



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama




SAVE THE DATE!

April 3rd, 2026
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for Good Friday

May 25th, 2026
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for Memorial Day

June 19th, 2026
GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for Juneteenth