

Early Learning News

October, November, December 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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NURTURE

verb

to care for, encourage, and support growth or development.

The relationships we build today help shape who children become tomorrow.

EARLY LEARNING FEATURE

More Than Storytime

How Books Build Language, Connection and Learning



Reading aloud is about so much more than words on a page. From the very beginning, books help children develop language skills, strengthen relationships, and discover the world around them. No matter a child's age, shared reading creates meaningful moments that support lifelong learning.



Build Language

Books introduce children to new words, ideas, and sentence patterns they may not encounter during everyday routines.



Build Connection

Reading together creates opportunities for closeness and conversation. Even infants and toddlers are learning how books, pictures, words, and stories work when an adult shares a book with them.



Build Curiosity

The best read-alouds aren't just about finishing the book. Asking questions, noticing illustrations, making predictions, and connecting the story to a child's life can extend thinking and comprehension.

Try This:

The next time you read together, pause and ask:

- What do you notice?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think they feel?
- What does this remind you of?

Source: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)





5 Ways to Make Reading Part of Every Day

1

Read it again.

Children benefit from hearing favorite stories more than once. Repeated reading gives them another chance to notice words, pictures, patterns, and details.

2

Talk about the pictures

You don't have to read every word to make a book meaningful. Pause to notice what is happening in the illustrations and invite children to talk about what they see.

3

Let children lead.

Follow their interests, questions, and observations. If they want to stop on one page, talk about it. If they have questions, give the conversation room to grow.

4

Bring books into play.

Stories don't have to end when the book closes. Use them as inspiration for pretend play, art, building, movement, music, or exploring something new together.

5

Make books easy to reach.

Create inviting spaces where children can see, reach, and choose books independently. Books become a more natural part of the day when they are available during everyday play and routines.



Keep the Learning Going

Looking for books, learning materials, professional development, podcasts, and ideas you can use? Explore GRECS resources at greecs.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

Deliverance Child Care Center

Discovery Island, Orange Beach

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

Mars Hill Church

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 October, November, December 2026!

- **October 8:** CPR and First Aid Refresher; 12:00pm-1:00pm; **Mobile**
- **October 27:** Holiday Safety-Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays; 6:00pm-8:00pm; **Mobile**
- **November 30:** Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9; 9:00am-10:00am; **Mobile**
- **November 30:** Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect CCDF: 11(CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; **Mobile**
- **December 2:** 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; 11:00am-1:00pm; **Mobile**
- **December 4:** First-Aid and CPR Training; 8:30am-12:30pm; **Mobile**
- **December 9:** 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; 9:30am-11:30am; **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)

November 4th-6th, 2026 | 8:30am - 12:30pm
GRECS Training Room, Mobile

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Highlighted Courses

October, November and December 2026

LEARNING THROUGH ACTIONS (APT)



What is active learning? During this 2-hour training participants will learn what this term means and how to incorporate it into their daily classroom experiences. Participants will use children's books and PBS KIDS resources to create their own action plan to use after the training concludes.

**October 7, 2026
6:00pm-8:00pm**

CCDF: 13, 14, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, LD | School-Agers | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

Presenter: APT Staff



Register Now

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



DIRECTOR'S FORUM: SUPERVISING STAFF THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND POSITIVE PRACTICES

Retaining quality teachers and staff is an ongoing challenge. Program leaders set the tone for the environment! Join us as we discuss qualities that improve the effectiveness of supervisors. We will discuss tips for successfully building collaborative teams, supporting staff, conducting staff reviews, and determining which professional development opportunities would be most beneficial to your team. By supervising staff through effective and positive practices, you will create a safe, respectful, and rewarding work environment for all!

**October 14, 2026
9:30am-11:30am**

CCDF: 13, 19, 20 | AL Pathways: MA, ICFC | CDA: 5, 6 | DHR: AM, CCPF, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

Presenter: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney TPI



Register Now

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



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 20, 2026
12:00pm - 3:00pm

Session 2

Monday,
November 23, 2026
8:30am - 3:00pm

Session 3

Tuesday,
November 24, 2026
8:30am - 3:30pm

October '26 TRAINING

Making Happy Happen: Building Resilience in Children

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

CCDF: 13, 20 | **AL Pathways:** CGD | **CDA:** 3, 8 | **DHR:** CD, CCPF | **Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers** | **Basic** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this workshop is for participants to understand the specific characteristics or elements in a child's life that most contribute to resilience.

One Book, Endless Learning Opportunities Session 2: Fall Into Learning

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | **AL Pathways:** CGD, LEE | **CDA:** 1, 2, 3, 8 | **DHR:** LD, CD | **Preschoolers, School-Agers** | **Intermediate** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Bring the beauty and excitement of fall into every area of the classroom through children's literature! Participants will learn how to use seasonal books to create engaging activities for circle time, centers, art, and hands-on exploration. Participants will explore community roles, fall changes, and apple themes using vocabulary building, dramatic play, sensory experiences, sequencing, and early informational writing that strengthen comprehension and background knowledge.

Learning Through Actions (APT)

October 7, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 13, 14, 17 | **AL Pathways:** CGD, LEE | **CDA:** 2, 3, 8 | **DHR:** CD, LD | **School-Agers** | **Basic** | **ALL Counties Webinar** | **No CEU Credit is awarded**

PRESENTER: APT Staff

What is active learning? During this 2-hour training participants will learn what this term means and how to incorporate it into their daily classroom experiences. Participants will use children's books and PBS KIDS resources to create their own action plan to use after the training concludes.

CPR and First Aid Refresher

October 8, 2026 | 12:00pm-1:00pm 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

Did you know? DHR recommends that you should take a CPR and First Aid refresher course every 12 months after your initial certification. It is the halfway point between your original certification and when you are required to renew so it's a pretty good rule to follow. This session provides participants with the CCDF category for the CPR refresher, 10R. The purpose of this training is to provide participants with CPR and basic First Aid refresher facts. No skills or return demonstration during this class.

Take a Risk! (On Active Physical Play)

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

CCDF: 5, 13, 17 | **AL Pathways:** CGD, HSN | **CDA:** 1, 2, 5 | **DHR:** CD, HSUP | **ALL** | **Intermediate** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

As educators working with young children, we all have boundaries and feelings around what risky play should be allowed. In this session, we will explore these boundaries and rethink our role in allowing children to play and confront risk on their own terms.

Essential Math Readiness Skills

October 13, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 19 | **AL Pathways:** CGD, LEE, PPD | **CDA:** 2, 6, 8 | **DHR:** CD, QCCL | **Preschoolers, School-Agers** | **Basic** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

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

Director's Forum: Supervising Staff Through Effective and Positive Practices

October 14, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19, 20 | **AL Pathways:** MA, ICFC | **CDA:** 5, 6 | **DHR:** AM, CCPF, QCCL | **ALL** | **Intermediate** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney, TPI

Retaining quality teachers and staff is an ongoing challenge. Program leaders set the tone for the environment! Join us as we discuss qualities that improve the effectiveness of supervisors. We will discuss tips for successfully building collaborative teams, supporting staff, conducting staff reviews, and determining which professional development opportunities would be most beneficial to your team. By supervising staff through effective and positive practices, you will create a safe, respectful, and rewarding work environment for all!

Partners in Success: Strengthening Family Partnerships Through Trust, Communication, and Collaboration

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

CCDF: 16 | **AL Pathways:** DIV, ICFC | **CDA:** 4, 6 | **DHR:** CCPF, AM | **ALL** | **Basic** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Wanda Belt

This interactive, evidence-based training equips childcare professionals with practical strategies for building trusting relationships, communicating effectively with families, embracing cultural diversity, and working collaboratively to support every child's success.

Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time

October 17, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | **AL Pathways:** LD, CD | **CDA:** 1, 2, 3, 8 | **DHR:** CGD, LEE | **Preschoolers** | **Basic** | **GRECS Training Room, Mobile**

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Transform circle time into an engaging adventure with stories! This session will explore fun, simple ways to make storytime more interactive and meaningful for young children. Participants will discover creative ideas for using books, props, movement, songs, and questions to capture children's attention, build language and early literacy skills, and make circle time a favorite part of the day.

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.

Every Minute Matters: Making Transitions Count

October 20, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Learn practical strategies to create smooth, engaging transitions that reduce challenging behaviors, maximize learning, and keep children actively involved throughout the day. Participants will leave with ready-to-use transition activities for immediate classroom implementation.

Setting the Tone for Success: Launching a Great School Year

October 20, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15 | AL Pathways: CGD, COA | CDA: 1, 2, 3 | DHR: CD, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | The Learning Tree at First Fairhope, AL

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this training is for participants to understand how to establish a positive, structured, and inclusive classroom environment from the first day of school.

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry - PDR Information

October 21, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 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**

The Art of Serve and Return (APT)

October 22, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 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: Valerie Silcox

The art of serve and return not only builds communication skills in infants and toddlers, but it also builds social and emotional development as they learn about taking turns as well as building confidence. In this two-hour training, participants will learn about serve and return as well as having the opportunity to practice it using games and interactive discussions.

Teasing, Bullying and Being Left Out

October 26, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

Have you noticed your preschoolers being teased, bullied, or left out by their peers? In this session, we'll learn how to help preschoolers use assertive language to more effectively handle these challenging social situations. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

Holiday Safety- Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays

October 27, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Avery Fick

During this session, we will identify common hazard situations that are created around activities that we experience during holidays and develop ways to anticipate and prevent them.

November '26 TRAINING

One Book, Endless Learning Opportunities Session 3: Bats, Owls, Spiders, Pumpkins

November 3, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: LD, CD | Preschoolers, School-Agers | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Karen Morrison, PhD

Using children's literature, participants will investigate fall creatures (Bats, Owls, Spiders, Pumpkins) through comparing, retelling, vocabulary study, science connections, movement, and crafts that deepen comprehension, oral language, and engagement during high-interest seasonal learning.

Getting Started 2026 (CTF)

November 4-6, 2026 | 8:30am-12:30pm 12 hrs/1.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: GRECS Staff

See page 4 for more information. **You must attend all sessions to receive credit!**

Right on Time: Healthy Routines for the Early Childhood Classroom (APT)

November 4, 2026 | 10:30am-12:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 20 | AL Pathways: LEE, HSN | CDA: 1, 7 | DHR: CD, HSUP | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: APT Staff

Routines keep a successful classroom running smoothly, making for effective teaching, learning, and growing. In this two-hour training, we will explore how to create classroom routines to effectively care for infants and toddlers while maintaining the flexibility that this age group requires.

Building Your Bounce: "What is Resilience and Understanding Risk and Protective Factors"

November 4, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 15, 16 | AL Pathways: ICFC, PPD, MA | CDA: 4, 6 | DHR: CCPE, AM | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

Participants will learn about the importance of adult resilience and the role that our own resilience has on our well-being and our ability to care for children. **No CEU Credit is awarded**

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November '26 TRAINING

Continued..

Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT)

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

CCDF: 13 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 8 | DHR: CD, PDG | Preschoolers | Basic | Spots for Tots Child Care Center, Chatom, AL

PRESENTER: Valerie Silcox

In this 2-hour training, using PBS KIDS shows as a starting point, participants will discuss ways to build and support curiosity, how to implement problem-solving and where to use critical thinking. The training will support this learning with engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and the use of children's books.

Multisensory Learning Techniques: What is it? (APT)

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

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

PRESENTER: Catharine Dukes

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 Skillsville, the participants will participate in interactive activities, group work and demonstrations.

Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time

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

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: LD, CD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CGD, LEE | Preschoolers | Basic | Discovery Island - 24843 Commercial Ave Orange Beach, AL 36561

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Transform circle time into an engaging adventure with stories! This session will explore fun, simple ways to make storytime more interactive and meaningful for young children. Participants will discover creative ideas for using books, props, movement, songs, and questions to capture children's attention, build language and early literacy skills, and make circle time a favorite part of the day.

Stop, Look, and Listen: The Value of Observation

November 10, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 20 | AL Pathways: COA, LEE | CDA: 7 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Erin Franklin

The goal of this training is to recognize how observation plays an integral part in the childcare setting. This training will also demonstrate ways observation can be used as a bridge between the childcare giver and the child's parent as well as support the developmental steps of infants and toddlers.

Cultivating Imagination in Young Children

November 12, 2026 | 6:30pm-8:30pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 19 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 7 | DHR: CD, QCCL | Toddlers, Preschoolers | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Participants will learn the importance of executive function and the role it plays in young children's development.

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

November 13, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Symone Mixon, Amber Edwards, Rachel Kitsos

This session provides an overview of the Alabama Quality STARS: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), a systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early childhood education programs. 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

Curiosity Is the Curriculum

November 17, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Wanda Belt

An engaging, evidence-based professional development training that helps early childhood educators create classrooms where children's natural curiosity drives learning.

Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT)

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

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

PRESENTER: Valerie Silcox

In this 2-hour training, using PBS KIDS shows as a starting point, participants will discuss ways to build and support curiosity, how to implement problem-solving and where to use critical thinking. The training will support this learning with engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and the use of children's books.

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.

We appreciate your respect of our training policies and procedures. Training policies can be found during the online registration process and at www.greecs.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.

November '26 TRAINING

Continued..

CDA Fast Track Session 1: Orientation, CDA Overview & Training Hours Review

November 20, 2026 | 12:00pm-3:00pm 3 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith & Erin Franklin

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 Fast Track Session 2: Professional Portfolio Preparation

November 23, 2026 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith & Erin Franklin

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

CDA Fast Track Session 3: Finalize Portfolio, Review Test

November 24, 2026 | 8:30am-3:30pm 6 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith & Erin Franklin

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*

Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children CCDF: 9

November 30, 2026 | 9:00am-10:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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

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

November 30, 2026 | 10:00am-11:00am 1 hr

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

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

December '26 TRAINING

The Four R's of Classroom Management: Relationships, Room Arrangement, Routines/Roles/Consequences, and Rewards

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

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

PRESENTER: Desira Keith

Participants will understand and apply The Four R's of Classroom Management to create positive, structured, and responsive early childhood learning environments that proactively support behavior, engagement, and social-emotional development.

Addressing Homelessness: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator (APT)

December 2, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 12 | AL Pathways: ICFC, CGD | CDA: 2, 4 | DHR: CCPF, CD | ALL | Basic | ALL Counties Webinar

PRESENTER: Paula Reese

This training will help participants gain a better understanding of the definition of homelessness according to the McKinney-Vento Act while becoming familiar with the often unseen but growing prevalence of homelessness in Alabama. Participants will also identify the causes of homelessness and its impact on a child's physical and mental development. Participants will gain a better understanding of their role as they are guided through best-practice strategies for ways to support children experiencing homelessness while in their care. *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

December 2, 2026 | 11:00am-1:00pm 2 hrs

CCDF: 2, 6 | AL Pathways: HSN | CDA: 1 | DHR: HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters

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*

Engaging Our Sensory Systems: Balance and Movement

December 3, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: CGD, HSN | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD, PDG, HSUP | ALL | Basic | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Vicki Giles

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

December '26 TRAINING

Continued..

Read, Rhyme and Repeat (APT)

December 3, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16 | AL Pathways: CGD, LEE | CDA: 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CD | Infants, Toddlers | Basic | Deliverance Child Care Center, Bay Minette, AL

PRESENTER: Valerie Silcox

Reading to infants and toddlers is a powerful foundation for early brain development. In this 2-hour training session, participants will learn ways to implement reading into their daily schedule as well as ways to encourage families to reinforce reading and repetition in the home setting.

First-Aid and CPR Training

December 4, 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, RNC

This 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*

Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time

December 5, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 15, 17 | AL Pathways: LD, CD | CDA: 1, 2, 3, 8 | DHR: CGD, LEE | Preschoolers | Basic | Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville

PRESENTER: Lisa Kirkland

Transform circle time into an engaging adventure with stories! This session will explore fun, simple ways to make storytime more interactive and meaningful for young children. Participants will discover creative ideas for using books, props, movement, songs, and questions to capture children's attention, build language and early literacy skills, and make circle time a favorite part of the day.

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.

Director's Forum: DAP: What's That?

December 8, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

CCDF: 13, 16, 20 | AL Pathways: MA, ICFC | CDA: 2, 5, 8 | DHR: CD, AM, QCCL | ALL | Intermediate | GRECS Training Room, Mobile

PRESENTER: Paula Reese and Vicki Giles

The DAP framework is grounded both in the research on child development and learning and in knowledge about educational effectiveness. Come to this session to discover how DAP promotes young children's optimal learning and development, strategies for implementation, and ideas for helping families understand DAP.

Beyond the Screen (APT)

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

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

PRESENTER: Catharine Dukes

Has excessive screen time become a problem? No idea what to do without screen time? Well, come along with us in this 2-hour training session to learn strategies, techniques, and PBS KIDS games to increase time away from the screens.

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 9, 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am 2 hrs

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

PRESENTER: Pamela Senters, RNC

We will introduce you to the foundational information you need to provide safe and healthy environments in the child care setting. Participants will discuss the Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions and hazardous materials. *No CEU Credit is awarded*

Read, Rhyme and Repeat (APT)

December 10, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm 2 hrs/0.2 CEUs

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

PRESENTER: Wanda Belt

Reading to infants and toddlers is a powerful foundation for early brain development. In this 2-hour training session, participants will learn ways to implement reading into their daily schedule as well as ways to encourage families to reinforce reading and repetition in the home setting.

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.

October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Making Happy Happen: Building Resilience in Children</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	2 	3 
5	6 <i>One Book, Endless Learning Opportunities Session 2: Fall into Learning</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	7 <i>Learning Through Actions (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	8 <i>CPR and First Aid Refresher</i> ; 12:00pm-1:00pm; Mobile <i>Take a Risk! (On Active Physical Play)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	9	10 
12 	13 <i>Essential Math Readiness Skills</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	14 <i>Director's Forum: Supervising Staff through Effective and Positive Practices</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	15 <i>Partners in Success: Strengthening Family Partnerships Through Trust, Communication, and Collaboration</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	16 	17 <i>Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile
19 	20 <i>Every Minute Matters: Making Transitions Count</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile <i>Setting The Tone For Success: Launching A Great School Year</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; The Learning Tree at First Fairhope	21 <i>Alabama Pathways Professional Development Registry-PDR Information</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	22 <i>The Art of Serve and Return (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile 	23	24 
26 <i>Teasing, Bullying and Being Left Out</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar 	27 <i>Holiday Safety-Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	28	29	30 	31 

November 2026



GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 	3 <i>One Book, Endless Learning Opportunities</i> Session 3: Bats, Owls, Spiders, Pumpkins; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	4 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 1) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Right on Time: Healthy Routines for the Early Childhood Classroom (APT)</i>; 10:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Building Your Bounce: "What is Resilience and Understanding Risk and Protective Factors"</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar	5 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 2) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile <i>Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Spots for Tots Child Care Center, Chatom <i>Multisensory Learning Techniques: What is it? (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile 	6 <i>Getting Started 2026 (Day 3) CTF</i>; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile	7 
9 <i>Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Discovery Island, Orange Beach	10 <i>Stop, Look, and Listen: The Value of Observation</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	11 	12 <i>Cultivating Imagination in Young Children</i>; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	13 <i>Alabama Quality STARS: Lift Them Higher With Quality Early Care and Education</i>; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile	14
16 	17 <i>Curiosity Is the Curriculum</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	18	19 <i>Exploring Curiosity, Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking with PBS KIDS (APT)</i>; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	20 <i>CDA Fast-Track Session 1: Orientation, CDA Overview & Training Hours Review</i>; 12:00pm-3:00pm; Mobile	21 
23 <i>CDA Fast-Track Session 2: Professional Portfolio Preparation</i>; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	24 <i>CDA Fast-Track Session 3: Finalize Portfolio, Review Test</i>; 8:30am-3:30pm; Mobile	25 	26  GRECS and EHS Closed for Thanksgiving	27	28
30 <i>Appropriate Pre-Cautions in Transporting Children</i> CCDF: 9; 9:00am-10:00am; Mobile <i>Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect</i> CCDF: 11(CTF); 10:00am-11:00am; Mobile 			  		 

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

December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>The Four R's of Classroom Management: Relationships, Room Arrangement, Routines/ Roles/Consequences, and Rewards</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	2 <i>Addressing Homelessness: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Webinar <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> ; 11:00am-1:00pm; Mobile	3 <i>Engaging Our Sensory Systems: Balance and Movement</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile <i>Read, Rhyme and Repeat (APT)</i> ; 5:30pm-7:30pm; Deliverance Child Care Center, Bay Minette	4 <i>First-Aid and CPR Training</i> ; 8:30am-12:30pm; Mobile 	5 <i>Making Storytime Come Alive in Circle Time</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville
7 	8 <i>Director's Forum: DAP: What's That?</i> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile <i>Beyond the Screen (APT)</i> ; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mobile	9 <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> ; 9:30am-11:30am; Mobile 	10 <i>Read, Rhyme and Repeat (APT)</i> ; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Mobile	11 	12 
14 	15	16	17 	18	19 
21 	22	23 	24 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	25 GRECS and EHS Closed for Christmas Day	26 
28	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.



REFLECTING ON RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES

Wet weather? Don't miss the fun outside!

LOIS INGELLIS | COMMUNITY PLAYTHINGS



Rainy Day Activities

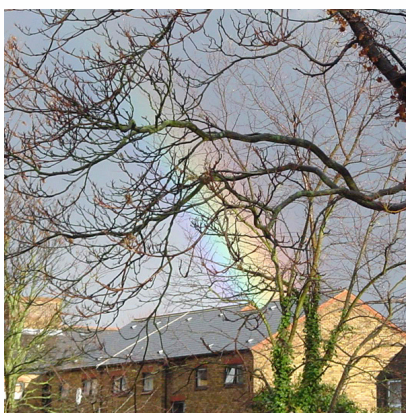
Rainy weather happens, but that is no excuse to stay inside! Wet days offer a deluge of new experiences that are not to be missed (apologies to all you readers from drier climates). I'm sure other climates can think of ways to incorporate these ideas without wasting precious water, too.

To get the most enjoyment out of the weather, children should be dressed appropriately in rain gear and boots. There's no such thing as bad weather—only inappropriate clothing! Of course, use common sense, and don't go out if there's a chance of lightning or severe weather.



JUMP IN PUDDLES

Sometimes it's the simplest things that produce the most fun! Every kid enjoys seeing how big a splash he can make. Go on a walk and see who can find the biggest puddle. Play follow the leader—go around, jump over, or wade through puddles.



LOOK FOR THE RAINBOW

If the sun comes out as the rain subsides, make sure you don't miss the rainbow. Take walks to notice what wonders are right in your own neighborhood and immediate surroundings.

A poem I have had in mind for 40 years goes like this:

"I have to have a stick when I go walking down the street,
To poke in holes and skim along the fences that we meet.
My father (teacher) says I have to have a stick with me—
I... cannot... walk without it!"

Walking and noticing small details in the environment can turn an ordinary rainy day into an adventure full of discovery.



SMELL THE RAIN

Give children time to absorb and enjoy the refreshing aroma of fresh spring rain hitting dry earth. There is even a word—and scientific research—to describe this distinct smell: Petrichor.

Smells often connect strongly to memory. For example, the smell of melted crayons may bring back memories of a grandmother's backyard, or the scent of tomato plants brushed against in a garden may remind someone of childhood summers. Encouraging children to notice and talk about these connections can deepen the sensory experience.



BECOME METEOROLOGISTS

Measure and chart the amount of rainfall. Simply put a plastic cup out in the rain or use a cut-off plastic bottle to make a rain gauge. Mark measurements on the side, and check it throughout the day. Daily weather checks can be graphed with stickers on a chart outside. Checking the weather when children can't see and be in it is not ideal. They crave and need full body experiences!



To read more visit:
<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/ten-rainy-day-activities>

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!



Learn More!

Scan to explore professional development opportunities!



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 - PDR Information

October 21, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm

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.

One Book, Endless Learning Opportunities: A Series with Karen Morrison, PhD.



Karen Morrison, PhD

**Assistant Professor of Elementary Education
University of South Alabama**

With 15 years of classroom experience in preschool, kindergarten, and second grade, Dr. Karen Morrison brings both practical and research-based perspectives to her work with educators. Her research focuses on early and emergent literacy strategies and instruction.

**Session 2 | October 6th, 2026
Fall Into Learning
6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Session 3 | November 3rd, 2026
Bats, Owls, Spiders, Pumpkins
6:00pm-8:00pm**

Focusing on themes such as back-to-school transitions, friendship, feelings, and classroom routines, this training provides practical ideas for building a positive classroom community while strengthening early literacy skills.

Learn more at www.grecs.org

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!**



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ON EARLY LEARNING

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TINY TALKS

Practical insights and inspiration for early childhood professionals.



CROSS-TALK

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UNRATTLED

Real conversations about the joys, challenges, and everything in between parenting.



APT Fall Online Training



Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Online

October 5 – November 22, 2026

Every Child is Welcome: Fostering Inclusion in the Child Care Setting - CCDF 15

October 5 – October 26, 2026

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 14, 2026



Scan for Facilitated Courses



Scan for more information about
APT's Fall 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

A comprehensive lending library and workroom where you'll find the tools you need to support children's learning and development.

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Hours:



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Wednesday
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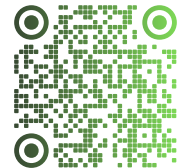
9am-4pm
9am-4pm
Closed
9am-4pm
9am-2pm

Call:

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Scan:

To learn more now!



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

Marybeth Fields
251-473-1060 ext. 1702

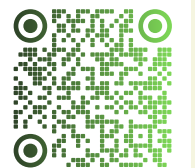
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info@alabamaqualitystars.org

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GULF REGIONAL
Early Childhood Services



United Way
of Southwest Alabama



Make sure to like,
follow and friend us on
all of our media outlets
to stay up to date with all
the latest happenings and
events!



November 26, 2026

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25, 2026

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

December 31, 2026

GRECS & EHS offices are CLOSED for
New Years Eve