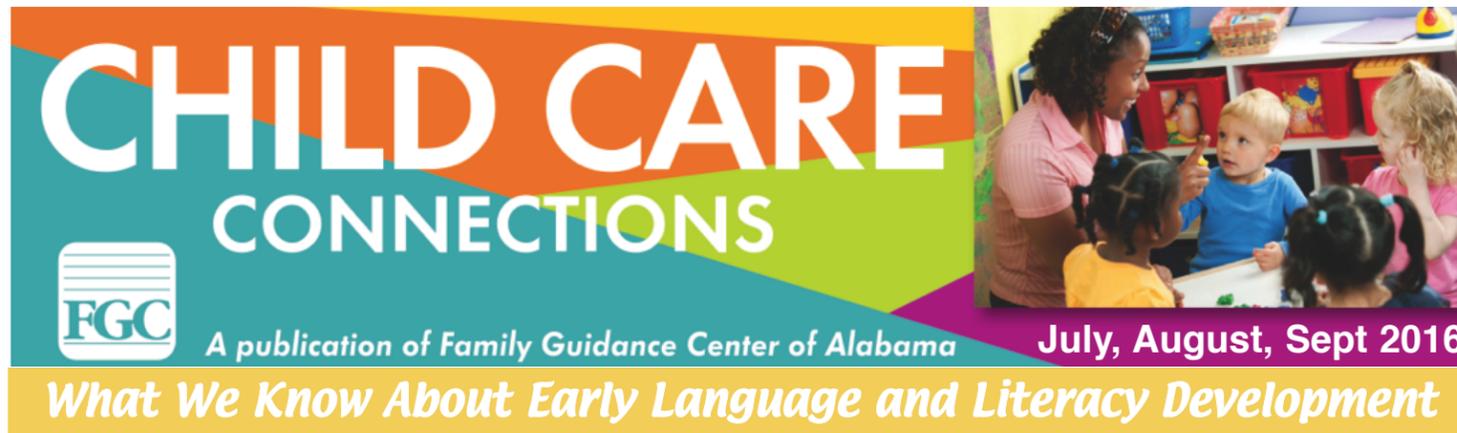




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July, August, September Newsletter/Calendar 2016

Save the Dates



Art Saturday - Montgomery

Pop Goes the Easel!

August 13, 2016

Opening Doors for Children with Special Needs Conference - Dothan

August 27, 2016

October 2016 - Art to Heart (Telecourse)

The Art to Heart is a new distance-learning course offered in partnership with Alabama Public Television and FGC's Child Care Education and Training Program. It is an engaging and fun course that depicts the benefits of using the arts in early childhood education and it consists of 8 episodes over 8 weeks. Participants will receive 12 training hours after completion of the course.

Please call your local Training Department for more information!

Agency Events 2016

Gold Rush Gala 2016

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be holding its annual Gold Rush Gala on Friday, July 22 at 6:30 PM at the Alabama Activity Center on Dexter Avenue in downtown Montgomery. This western themed evening is the agency's largest fundraising event and it promises to be lots of fun again this year. The evening will include dinner from Jim N Nicks, a silent auction, musical entertainment, cash bar, and grand prize drawings for \$2,000, \$3,000, and \$5,000. Tickets are \$100 which admits two people and all the proceeds benefit the many programs and services of Family Guidance Center, which has been serving the community for over 57 years. Call us at 270-4100 or 800-499-6597 or visit our website at www.familyguidancecenter.org.



FGC Walk/Run 2016

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be hosting its Annual 5K/10K Walk/Run on Saturday, September 10 at 7:30 AM at The Shoppes at EastChase in Montgomery. All proceeds to benefit the programs and services of the agency. Start your weekend off well and come on out and walk or run with us. Always loads of fun. Great prizes and food. Get more info or register at www.familyguidancecenter.org. Thanks everyone!!

Early language and literacy development begins in the first three years of life and is closely linked to a child's earliest experiences with books and stories. The interactions that young children have with such literacy materials as books, paper, and crayons, and with the adults in their lives are the building blocks for language, reading, and writing development. This understanding of early literacy development complements the current research supporting the critical role of early experiences in shaping brain development.

Recent research supports an interactive and experiential process of learning spoken and written language skills that begins in early infancy. We now know that children gain significant knowledge of language, reading, and writing long before they enter school. Children learn to talk, read, and write through such social literacy experiences as adults or older children interacting with them using books and other literacy materials, including magazines, markers, and paper. Simply put, early literacy research states that:

- Language, reading, and writing skills develop at the same time and are intimately linked.
- Early literacy development is a continuous developmental process that begins in the first years of life.
- Early literacy skills develop in real life settings through positive interactions with literacy materials and other people.

Early literacy skills are essential to literacy development and should be the focus of early language and literacy programs. By focusing on the importance of the first years of life, we give new meaning to the interactions young children have with books and stories. Looking at early literacy development as a dynamic developmental process, we can see the connection (and meaning) between an infant mouthing a book, the book handling behavior of a two year old, and the page turning of a five year old. We can see that the first three years of exploring and playing with books, singing nursery rhymes, listening to stories, recognizing words, and scribbling are truly the building blocks for language and literacy development.



Ways to share Books with children

Make Sharing Books Part of Every Day - Read or share stories at bedtime or on the bus.

Have Fun - Children can learn from you that books are fun, which is an important ingredient in learning to read.

A Few Minutes is OK - Don't Worry if You Don't Finish the Story - Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will be able to sit longer.

Talk or Sing About the Pictures - You do not have to read the words to tell a story.

Let Children Turn the Pages - Babies need board books and help turning pages, but a three-year-old can do it alone. Remember, it's OK to skip pages!

Show Children the Cover Page - Explain what the story is about.

Show Children the Words - Run your finger along the words as you read them, from left to right.

Make the Story Come Alive - Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Make It Personal - Talk about your own family, pets, or community when you are reading about others in a story.

Source: Zero to Three

Visit www.zerotothree.org/BrainWonders for more information.

Upcoming FGC training classes on language development during July - September

Please check the training calendar in your region for dates and times.

Montgomery Region

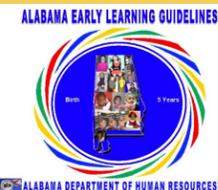
- Explore and Learn with Infants - *"I Want My Baby to Read" - Supporting Parents in Guiding Early Language Development*
- Learn and Grow with Toddlers - *Using Puppets to Encourage Literacy*
- Grow and Discover with Preschoolers - *The Story is Just the Start*
- Discover with Schoolagers - *Supporting Struggling Readers*
- *Read Aloud with Children: New Info and New Ideas*

Dothan Region

- *Fostering Language Development - What Can You Do?*
- *Playing with Language - Skill Building Activities*
- *Author Study - Eric Carle*

Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

AELG Online



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines professional development course, through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Human Resources and Alabama Public Television, will be available online this quarter. The 7 week course will begin Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines were developed by DHR to promote continuity of high quality care and learning for children ages 0-5. The AELG online course will consist of 7 training sessions with readings, activities, and online discussions that will be a guide for understanding child development and learning and for implementing best practice in order to prepare children for success in school and in life.

Participants who complete the course will receive a document of completion issued by APT, and an AELG Credential issued by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. (You can only participate in the AELG course one time either face-to-face or online.)

Registration: To register for the course, contact (Montgomery Training Department at 334-270-4100 ext 235 or Dothan Training Department at 334-712-7777 ext 227). **Registration deadline is Monday, July 18, 2016.** Course participants must have a working email address and access to an internet connection.

If you have questions about the course (not to register), contact Lisa Nunn at lnunn@aptv.org or 1-800-239-5233, ext. 0125.

Resource Library Update

Shining a Spotlight on Theme Kits

The Resource Library in Dothan is highlighting the following kit.

Infant and Toddler - Toys and Books



We have expanded our infant/toddler resources over the last few months! In addition to our existing resources, designed for optimal infant/toddler development, we found some fun, exciting and new materials. Our infant/toddler library now includes comprehensive themed kits about farms, community helpers and the ocean. We have added new board books, toddler sized hand puppets, multi-cultural music, stacking toys, and sensory/tactile materials designed to encourage strong motor skills development.

Plan a visit to the Resource Library in your region where you will find a wealth of information available for checkout to help you plan your day with the children in your care.

Be sure to check the Family Guidance Center website for a list of kits that are available for checkout.
www.familyguidancecenter.org

Butterfly Activities

Infants - Tissue Paper Butterflies

Materials: Colored art tissue paper, black pipe cleaners, fishing line
Cut tissue paper into butterfly shapes. Use two or three different colors of tissue paper shapes stacked one on top of the other. Twist a black pipe cleaner around the middle of the butterfly shape. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner to make two antennae. Attach a length of fishing line to each tissue paper butterfly. Hang the butterflies near a vent to make them move as if they are flying. Hold babies up to see the butterflies.



Toddlers - Paint Blot Butterflies

Materials: White paper, gallon-size resealable plastic bags, paint, scissors, masking tape, string
Cut butterfly shapes for each child from white paper. Make the shapes to fit inside a gallon-size resealable plastic bag. Put blobs of paint on the shapes, then fold the shapes in half, and put inside gallon-size bags. Seal the bags and cover the seal with masking tape. Offer the bags to toddlers. Encourage toddlers to rub, pound, shake, and pat the bags. Remove the butterfly shapes from the bags and hang to dry. Attach string to the dry, blot painted butterflies and hang from the ceiling.



Preschoolers - Butterfly Match-Ups

Materials: 3 paper plates, markers, scissors, 6 toilet tissue tubes, exact-o knife
Cut three paper plates into four sections each to make six pairs of butterfly wings. Use markers to make from 1 to 6 colored dots on each pair of wings. Away from children, cut 3-inch slits in opposite sides of six toilet tissue tubes. Put from 1 to 6 on each tube. Give the children the butterfly wings and empty tubes. Let them find the matching wings and insert them in the slits of the matching tube to make butterflies.

Schoolagers - Butterfly Mural

Materials: Long piece of butcher paper, tape, variety of art materials
Tape a long piece of butcher paper on the wall at children's level. Children choose art materials and make butterflies. Attach butterflies to the butcher paper for a three-dimensional mural. Children may want to draw or glue other materials on the paper.

Infant Quality Tip

Take the Babies Outside!

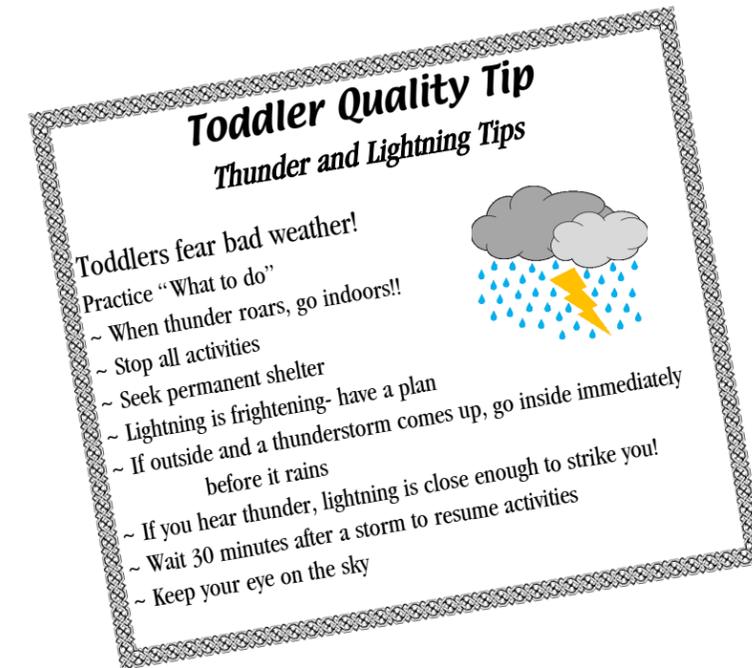
Infants are in the sensory motor stage of development and therefore learn by exploring and receiving feedback from their entire body. Infants learn through all of their senses by touching, smelling, hearing, seeing and tasting the items in the environment. This interaction with materials offers experience and knowledge upon which to build later experiences. Outdoor play is very important for the development of babies. It's one of the best ways for children to develop their physical, cognitive and social skills as well as building the foundation for literacy, math and science concepts. From the minute they can sit up on their bottoms, they should be exploring their world outside. They should be engaged with all of its sensory stimulating pleasures.



Special Needs Conference - Recap



On Saturday, May 21, 2016, the Education and Training Program in Montgomery held their Supporting Children with Special Needs Conference. The focus of the conference was Special Kids, Special Families - Creative Techniques for Unlocking Potential. Presenters for the conference were: Mary Jo Logan, UCP of Central Alabama and Lisa Elliott, Family Guidance Center of Alabama. Topics covered during the conference were: *Overview of Autism, Interventions, Empowering Families and Embracing the Challenge.* Participants also left the conference with resource information to share with parents of the children in their care.



Update for Directors

Every other month, the FGC Training Department offers a thirty-minute teleconference for Directors. One hour credit is given. This is a convenient way to gain insight and to connect with other Directors in your area. Without leaving your center, you can learn about new trends in child care and engage in discussion about ways to improve your center and staff dynamics.

Wednesday, August 10th from 12 pm - 12:30 pm

Policy Updates on Child Care Subsidy

This quarter, both Dothan and Montgomery locations will be offering 2-hour trainings for directors. These trainings are the **Especially for Directors** series and are held for Owners, Directors and Assistant Directors of day care centers.

Please check your calendars for the dates, times and locations of these upcoming directors trainings.

DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

July 4, 2016 – Independence Day

September 5, 2016 – Labor Day

CDA Update



The Family Guidance Center staff receives calls each week asking about the CDA Credentialing process. While we are happy to assist you in attaining your professional goals, you can also access a series of recorded webinars that include topics such as: Preparing for the CDA Assessment, Applying for the CDA Credential, and Simulated Online Renewal Application. These webinars are conducted by Council members and at no cost to the viewer. Interested professionals can access CDA webinars at <http://www.cdacouncil.org/resources/register-for-webinars>. This site also offers information on finding CDA scholarships, downloadable forms & brochures (English & Spanish) and ECE organizations. The Council for Professional Recognition website consistently keeps candidates informed on changes, events and resources.

Week of the Young Child - Recap



The Child Care Education and Training Program in both Dothan and Montgomery wants to thank the child care providers that helped us celebrate the Week of the Young Child with David Kisor. David presented a 2 hour teacher training titled, Building Social and Emotional Awareness Through Music and Movement for 160 teachers from both regions. David also entertained 346 children at the children's concerts.



Many Thanks!

On behalf of everyone in the Child Care Education and Training Programs in Dothan and Montgomery, we would like to say a special THANK YOU to everyone who attended our special events and conferences. Your participation in these special events is what makes them so wonderful! We enjoyed seeing each and every one of you!

Please continue to look for more exciting events and trainings in our Calendars and Newsletter! And don't forget to share the Calendar and Newsletter with your staff!

