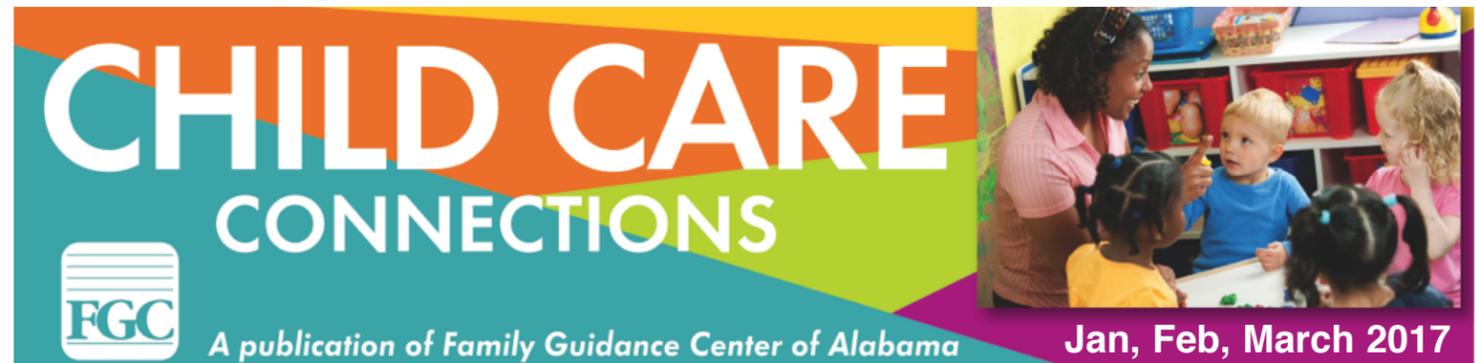




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A publication of Family Guidance Center of Alabama

Jan, Feb, March 2017

## Child Care and Development Block Grant

In 2014, Congress passed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act that reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). This rule establishes the regulations for the child care providers registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program. This Act applies to all providers (excluding relative care providers) participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program.

During the month of November, 2016 the Alabama Department of Human Resources Child Care Services Division held information sessions across the state regarding the new regulations. Below you will find information on how child care will be impacted across Alabama and the nation in regard to these new requirements.

### There are four major areas that the Act addresses:

- Protect the health and safety of children in child care
- Enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce
- Provide equal access to stable, high quality child care for low-income children
- Help parents make informed choices and access the information to support child development

### Health and Safety Requirements

Providers will be required to complete training in the health and safety areas and this training must be completed within three months of employment. Minimum Standard requirements of 12 hours within first 30 days will still be applicable. Pending completion of all pre-service training, the staff member must be supervised at all times by an individual who has completed all pre-service requirements. The training must be completed in the following specified topic 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 pre-cautions in transporting children
10. First-aid and CPR
11. Recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect  
Training that is received will also address the following areas that were covered under the CCDBG Act:
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

Child care providers providing care for children under the subsidy program will also receive annual monitoring and inspection visits that are unannounced from Department of Human Resources staff. The focus of the inspections will include child/staff ratio, group size and other requirements. Monitoring and inspections must be posted to the State's child care website and be easily accessible.

The CCDBG requirements outline new rules governing Criminal Background Checks. These rules include that background checks must be completed by all staff members every five years. Comprehensive background checks must include ABI, FBI, Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance, State Sex Offender Registry and National Sex Offender Registry. Background checks are required for individuals age 18 or over residing in family child care homes. Pending completion of all background check components, the staff member must be supervised at all times by an individual who received a qualifying result on all background checks within the past five years. In addition, child care providers must be in compliance with child abuse reporting laws.

The Child Care Services Division of the Alabama Department of Human Resources will have complete information on their website concerning the new regulations for child care providers registered to participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program.

### For additional information you can contact the

Alabama Department of Human Resources - 866-528-1694

Email: [childcare.subsidy@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:childcare.subsidy@dhr.alabama.gov)

[www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)

-or-

Family Guidance Center of Alabama  
Child Care Education and Training Program

334-270-4100 ext. 289

[angela.bailey@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:angela.bailey@dhr.alabama.gov)

[www.familyguidancecenter.org](http://www.familyguidancecenter.org)

## January, February, March Newsletter/Calendar 2017

### Day for Directors

On Saturday, January 21, 2017, Family Guidance Center's Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery will be hosting a Director's Conference. Our guest speaker will be Attorney Hope Hicks who specializes in employment and personnel law with the law firm of Webb and Eley. Some of the topics to be covered at the conference will include:



- Existing and New Fair Labor Standards
- Wage and Hour Regulations
- Workman's Compensation
- Interviewing, Hiring and Firing Practices

This conference is for Directors, Assistant Directors, and/or Owners of center-based child care. Must register to attend. Please call the Montgomery Child Care Education and Training Program at 334-270-4100 ext 235 to register.

Lunch will be provided by Lakeshore Learning Materials.

Vendors will have booths set up at the Director's Conference

### Sensational Saturday 2017

The Child Care Education and Training Program in Dothan and Montgomery is excited to announce that Jim Gill, children's musician and author, will be the special speaker for Sensational Saturday 2017.



Jim Gill, from Oak Park, Illinois, is a musician and author with singular credentials among children's artists. Jim spent twenty years directing programs in music play for families and children with special needs in the Chicago area. His particular writing style, combining word play and movement opportunities into songs, was developed through this work. Jim completed his graduate studies in child development at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with a special emphasis on the study of play. His work experience and studies have led Jim to create each of his recordings and books as an opportunity for playful interactions between a child and a caring adult.

Jim has released seven award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in family rooms, classrooms and playrooms. Jim is also the author of two children's books. Over the years he has received five awards from the American Library Association for his releases.

#### Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Dothan

Saturday, January 28, 2017

#### Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Montgomery

Saturday, February 25, 2017

## APT Online Courses

### ALABAMA EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES



The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines professional development course, through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Alabama Public Television, the Alabama State Department of Education, and Family Guidance Center of Alabama, will be offered online again this quarter.

- It is a **FREE 7 week online course that begins on January 20, 2016.**
- **You must complete entire course in order to get your credential at the end.**
- **You MUST have a working e-mail address and access to the internet to be able to take this course. If you are taking this course with a co-worker you will each need to have separate email addresses.**

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines were developed by DHR to promote continuity of high quality care and learning for young children ages 0-5. The AELG online course will consist of training sessions with readings, activities, & online discussions that will be a guide for understanding child development & learning, and for implementing best practices in order to prepare children for success in school and in life. Participants who complete the course will receive 18 workshop training hours and a Training Award Credential issued by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

To register for the online course please contact Lisa Nunn at lnunn@aptv.org. Space is limited in this class. (The AELG class can only be taken once, so if you have taken the AELG as a face-to-face class or online you are not eligible to take this course)

APT's CDA Credential Course: An Introduction - This course is designed for any professional early child care educator considering applying for the CDA Credential. This 6 week course will answer the most frequently asked questions about the credentialing processing, and address eligibility requirements and concerns for applying, demonstrating and earning the CDA Credential. (15 hour training).

For more information about dates for this course contact  
Lisa Nunn at lnunn@aptv.org.

## Resource Library Update - Dothan

Family Guidance Center of Alabama is happy to announce Children's Story Hour. The Dothan Resource Library will offer story hour the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30am until 10:30am beginning January 2017. Child care providers and four year olds are invited to attend at 545 West Main Street, Suite 302. Due to limited space, reservations are necessary; please call (334) 712-7777 ext. 224. Story Hour will be conducted by our staff. Children will be encouraged to select their own library book to take home until their next visit. Please call for any further information and to make your reservation early.



## Winter Activities

### Infant Activity - Mixing Colors

Place a few drops of different colored paint in a zip lock bag. Place packing tape over opening. You can tape this to the floor, table top or highchair. Let babies pat with hands or crawl over and watch the colors mix and spread.



### Toddler Activity - Snowball Toss

**Materials:** White or clear container and white socks  
On the container, draw a snowman face; two eyes, nose and a mouth. Roll the socks into a ball. Allow toddlers to toss the snowball into the snowman. Let the fun begin!

### Preschool Activity - Puffy Paint Snow Scenes

**Materials:** 1 tablespoon self rising flour, 1 tablespoon salt, 3 teaspoons water, cardboard shapes or squares and paintbrushes.  
Combine flour and salt in a small bowl. Add a little bit of water and stir until you get a smooth, thin paste (about the consistency of stirred yogurt). Create the artwork, then put it into the microwave for 25-30 seconds and watch the magic happen!

### Schoolagers - Crystal Snowflakes

**Materials:** Borax, water, jars, pipe cleaners, string, popsicle sticks  
Shape your pipe cleaners into snowflakes. Use the string to tie your snowflakes and stick together. Make the string long enough to fully submerge your snowflake in the Borax. Mix your Borax with warm water (1/3 cup of Borax to 2 cups of warm water.) Stir until the Borax has dissolved. Submerge your snowflake in the Borax solution, resting the stick across the top of the container. Let them sit overnight. Schoolagers may want to take them home as a tree ornament.

## Infant Quality Tip

### Why Begin Language and Literacy with Infants?

The early years of life are a period in which the foundation for future learning is being laid at the emotional, cognitive, experiential, and even cellular levels. Babies are communicating from day one. They use their gestures, sounds, and expressions to communicate feelings and needs like hunger, sleepiness, joy, etc. Even before a baby's first word, she will develop her own unique ways of communicating. Reading a baby's cues is an important way to build her language skills. Watch to see how she communicates her thoughts and feelings. How do you know when she is hungry, happy, or uncomfortable? What gestures does she use? What sounds does she make? Understanding a baby's unique way of communication will help you meet her needs and recognize her likes and dislikes.



## AELG Face-to-Face - Montgomery

Beginning Saturday, January 7th, the Montgomery Training Department will be offering the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course. The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course is written to promote continuity of high quality care and learning for children from birth through five years of age.

This course consists of nine training sessions that are a guide for understanding child development and learning, and for implementing best practices in order to prepare children for success in school and in life.

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Credential is an important milestone on the Career Lattice of Alabama Child Care and Education Professional Development System - Pathways to Quality Care and Education.

**Please see the Montgomery Training Calendar for more information on dates, times and location for the face-to-face AELG Course. Must be registered to attend. Must attend Session 1 in order to attend other sessions.**

## Toddler Quality Tip

### Leave No Child Unsupervised

In the Early Childhood arena, "Leave no child unsupervised" has a serious consequence. As caregivers of young children, it is extremely important to focus on our children and think "safety."

Active supervision requires focused attention and intentional observation of children at all times. Child care providers need to position themselves so they can observe all of the children: watching, counting, and listening at all times.

It is important to supervise, supervise, supervise!



## Update for Directors

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

### Director's Conference - Montgomery

See back page for more information

### Especially for Directors - Dothan

Program Administration Scale (PAS)

### Especially for Directors Teleconference - Montgomery

Director's Conference 2017 - Review and Follow-up

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

## DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

January 2, 2017 – New Year's Day

January 16, 2017 – Martin Luther King, Jr./Robert E. Lee Day

February 20, 2017 – Presidents' Day

## CDA Update

An essential player in the CDA process is the Professional Development Specialist. The PD Specialist uses the ROR (R=review documents, O=observe the candidates, R=reflective dialogue) model; reviews the professional portfolio, training transcripts and family questionnaires, observes the candidate working with the children, and reflects (with the candidate) on areas of strength or growth. The PD Specialist submits the information along with the CDA exam to the Council for a credentialing decision. You can be part of this important process by applying to become a PD Specialist. There are just a few in our Dothan and Montgomery area so your participation would help candidates in reaching their goals in a more timely manner. The Council also offers an honorarium for each visit. The qualifications, application, and FAQs can be found on the Council website. If you have earned the CDA credential or are in the process of earning one you know how valuable each player is to the team. Be part of that team and apply to become a PD Specialist today.

## Online Training Opportunities

Family Guidance Center has once again partnered with ProSolutions Training. Through this partnership you are able to earn a portion of your training hours to meet the DHR requirements through their online courses.



### Three easy steps to enroll:

1. **Call and talk to the FGC online training specialist and complete enrollment form**
2. **Verify that you have worked a full year in child care**
3. **Verify that you have taken at least half of your yearly required training hours as face to face classes at FGC**

If you are interested in this training opportunity, please call the Training Department for additional information. For the Dothan area, please call 334-712-7777, ext. 227. For the Montgomery area, please call 334-270-4100 ext. 235. Please ask to speak to the Online Training Specialist, or, if necessary, please leave your name, phone number and a brief message and your call will be returned.

## Save the Date



Mark your calendar for these exciting events in both the Dothan and Montgomery locations!

### Week of the Young Child - Teacher Training and Children's Events

Dothan

Teacher Training - April 11, 2017

Children's Carnival Event - April 12, 2017

Montgomery

April 2017

Exciting Announcement on Plans in January