



Family Guidance Center of Alabama
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Child Care *Connections*

A publication of Family Guidance Center of Alabama



October, November, December 2012

www.familyguidancecenter.org

October, November, December Newsletter/Calendar 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SENSATIONAL SATURDAY 2013

Both the Dothan and Montgomery Education and Training Departments are pleased to announce that Kimberly Johnson, children's author and master storyteller, will be the keynote speaker for Sensational Saturday 2013. Kimberly has written 11 children's books and she was invited by President and Mrs. Bush to serve as a guest speaker at the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House in 2002.

Dothan's Sensational Saturday
is scheduled for Saturday, February 2nd
and
Montgomery's Sensational Saturday
is scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd.



Please visit Kimberly at www.simplycreativeworks.com. Both Resource Libraries have some of Kimberly's books and they are available for checkout.

A New Year, A New (Professional) You!

The beginning of the school year brings many new opportunities to child care providers and directors. New children and new families come with the new year, and the fall season brings cooler weather, and football – War Eagle, Roll Tide, Go Trojans! To assist child care professionals in planning for their career, FGC staff are making available many new professional development opportunities.

These professional development opportunities will assist child care staff in reaching their professional goals, and will support the DHR Alabama Pathways career lattice. We are proud of our providers' achievements, and we are looking forward to working with you again this year. Directors in both the Dothan and Montgomery regions can look forward to several new or enhanced training and networking initiatives this year.

A sample of the new/enhanced initiatives include:

- Enhanced Director's Conference and Luncheon
- A new Child Care Business series, which will focus on strengthening child care operations
- Getting to Know You*, a program in which centers may request scheduled visits from our Child Care Training Coordinator to discuss various services and resources for the center and to provide training feedback to us
- Director's Teleconference, which offers one hour of training without leaving your center.
- A new and expanded Director's Forum is now in place. We will be keeping Directors informed via email about upcoming trainings, special events, and important information.



For Child Care Providers, we are also adding new training initiatives for child care staff that will be available for both the Dothan and the Montgomery regions:

- A new 12 hour Health and Safety Series in March, May, July and September.
- New training topics with levels for beginning, intermediate, and advanced staff.
- Coffee, Books, and Conversations*- A new book club that offers training hours.
- SpecialCare*, which provides an in-depth look at working with and including children with special needs into your classroom.
- A new series which focuses on maintaining a healthy, safe environment for children

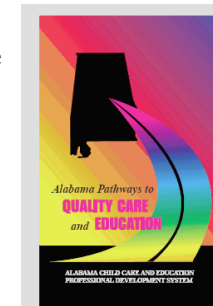
We are fortunate to have several excellent child care conferences close by this year. Attending conferences with your staff is a great way to network with other professionals, learn new early childhood information, and get great resources. If you are a member of NAEYC, you can get discounts on the NAEYC and SECA conferences.

- The Georgia Association of Young Children (GAYC), September 28 and 29
- The National Association of Young Children (NAEYC) is in Atlanta, GA this year from November 7-10, 2012
- FOCAL will hold their 40th Annual Conference on November 16-17, 2012 in Montgomery
- The Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) is holding their regional conference in Mobile, Alabama beginning on February 28, 2013 to March 2, 2013
- Sensational Saturday-Dothan: February 2, 2013. Location: Wallace Community College
- Sensational Saturday-Montgomery: February 23, 2013
- Alabama Pre-K Conference will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery, April 18-19, 2013
- Special Needs Conference- Montgomery: May 2013

Alabama Pathways Core Knowledge Areas

The *Alabama Pathways to Quality And Education* (Alabama Pathways) goal is "to provide a path to support and advance the best practices of those who care for and teach children birth through 12 years." The Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice provides early childhood and school-age care professionals with a tool to track their professional development. The Alabama Pathways Core Knowledge Areas (APCKA) serve as a foundational checklist of knowledge, skills, and abilities that child care professionals can use to guide and track their professional development.

The Alabama Pathways brochure is on the DHR web site at www.dhr.alabama.gov in the regular brochure version and in a printer friendly version. Hard copies of the brochure can be obtained by calling the Alabama DHR Child Care Services Division at 334-244-1425 or toll-free at 866-528-1694 and asking to speak with a Quality Enhancement Coordinator.



Library News – Montgomery

The Family Guidance Center Child Care Education Resource Library in Montgomery is now open from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Thursday. The library is also available until 6:00 pm on the nights when we have scheduled trainings in Montgomery.

- We have added new resource books
- We now have additional die cuts (large monkey, large pumpkin, large turkey, large Christmas Tree and mini leaves)
- A computer is available with Wi-Fi for library patrons to assist in curriculum planning.

We encourage you to come in and use these wonderful resources. Contact Claire Wallace, our Resource Specialist, at 334-270-4100 ext. 267, with any questions or to make an appointment.



New Training Guidelines

Since January 2012, all training sessions offered through Family Guidance Center of Alabama have followed this guideline:



◆ **Participants who enter the building after the class has begun will no longer receive credit hours for that training.**

This guideline will help ensure that participants are receiving the numbers of hours stated on the certificate and that the Training Department is reporting the most accurate information for the pre/post assessments, evaluations, and number of participants attending the training.

Thanks for your help as we move forward with this guideline.

Additional CPR and First Aid Classes Available

Montgomery County - October 12, 2012, November 21, 2012, December 19,

2012 - for more information on these classes call Janet Breal, Healthy Child Care

Alabama at 334-206-2910. Please leave your name and phone number.

Autauga, Dallas, Lowndes or Wilcox County – If you live in these counties and

need CPR and/or First Aid, please call Nancy Wilson, Healthy Child Care Alabama at

334-874-2550. Please leave your name and phone number.

Elmore or Chilton County – If you live in either of these counties and need CPR

and/or First Aid, please call Debbie Parker, Healthy Child Care Alabama at

205-280-5700. Please leave your name and phone number.

Connecting to the F&C Website - New Directions

To access calendar and training information go to www.familyguidancecenter.org. - on the right hand side of the home page you will see a purple box. Locate the file that you want to open and double click. Remember to scroll down to Today's Poll and check one of the choices.



Important Information

When making your selection for class registration please note the title of the class you are going to attend. We do offer the same class in various locations to allow easier access for providers in all our counties. If you have already attended a class in one county, it is important to choose a different title so you receive the most information and can be confident that it will be counted towards your total professional development hours for the year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to check with the office you contact to register for training.

Plastic Bottle and Jar Activities

Infants

Shake! Shake! Shake!

Materials: Plastic peanut butter jars with lids, variety of noisy materials (rice, bells, beads, etc.), glue

Fill several plastic peanut butter jars with different noisy materials. Glue lids securely in place. Offer jars for babies to explore. Observe to see which sounds babies play with more often.

Toddlers

In and Out

Materials: Saltine cracker box, 2-liter clear (empty) soda bottle, colorful noisy materials (beads, buttons, marbles), glue, colorful contact paper

Remove the top flaps from a saltine cracker box. Cover the box with colored contact paper. Put colorful noisy materials such as buttons, beads, or marbles in a 2-liter clear plastic soda bottle. Glue the lid securely in place. Place the bottle inside the cracker box. Offer the toy to a toddler and allow him or her to explore ways to play with it. Make enough of these for your class to eliminate the need for sharing.

Preschoolers

I Spy Bottle

Materials: 1-liter clear (empty) plastic bottle, variety of colored materials (marbles, beads, buttons, plastic gemstones, florist rocks, shells), small familiar objects (car, crayon piece, birthday candle, plastic ring, etc.), self-adhesive label, glue, markers

Fill a 1-liter clear plastic bottle with a variety of colorful materials, leaving enough room to shake, roll, and turn the materials around inside the bottle. Place several familiar items inside the bottle. Glue the lid securely on the bottle. Draw pictures of the familiar items on a self-adhesive label and put the label on the bottle. Shake the bottle to hide the items among the colorful materials. Offer the bottle to a child to explore and find the hidden objects.



Schoolagers

Glow Jars

Materials: plastic jars with lids, neon glow sticks, scissors

Offer a jar to each child. Use scissors to clip the ends off glow sticks. Put the glow sticks inside the jars and shake to make splashes of color on the inside of the jars. Put the lids on jars and set in bright light (sunlight or under a lamp) for at least 30 minutes. Take jars into a dim room to see the jars glow with colors. Recharge the colors by placing the jars in bright light for half an hour.

Infant Quality Tip

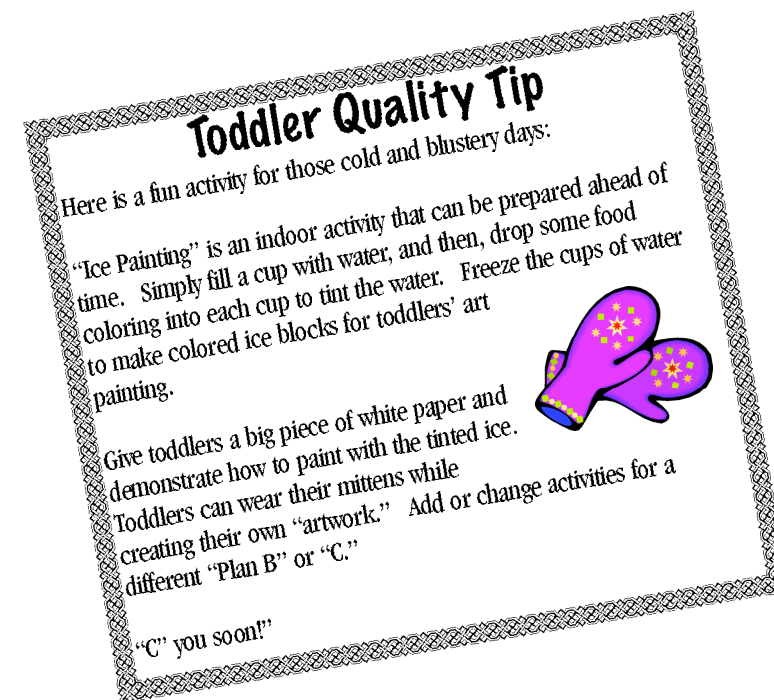
What is the Period of Purple Crying? The Period of Purple Crying is a new way to help parents understand this time in their baby's life, when they have colic. This is a normal part of every infant's development. It is confusing and concerning for parents to be told their baby "has colic" because it sounds like an illness or a condition that is abnormal. When the baby is given colic medicine it reinforces the idea that there is something wrong with the baby when in fact the baby is going through a very normal developmental phase. That is why it is referred to as the Period of Purple Crying. It is not because the baby turns purple when he/she cries but provides a meaningful and memorable way to describe what parents and their babies are going through. The letters in PURPLE stand for: P – Peak of Crying; U – Unexpected; R – Resists Soothing; P – Pain-like Face; L – Long-lasting; E – Evening. For more information on the Period of Purple Crying visit www.purplecrying.info



CDA Update

It's Back to School Time! Why not consider going back to school? T.E.A.C.H (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) is a scholarship program that was developed to increase the level of education and effectiveness of early learning professionals by making the educational process more affordable.

Scholarships are currently offered for the CDA (Child Development Associate) Assessment Fee, Associate Degrees in Child Development and Early Care and Education, and Bachelor Degrees in Child Development and Early Care and Education. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood@ ALABAMA provides scholarships to child care center and preschool teachers, directors, and family home providers. Applications are available at the Family Guidance Center offices in Dothan and Montgomery.



New Information

Training Express

The Child Care Education and Training Program staff in Montgomery and Dothan are always ready to support caregivers by providing technical assistance or bringing training sessions you request to your site.



Sessions, with topics based on your needs, can be planned for 1 or 2 hours either during the day or evening. To schedule these sessions, please call the office you normally contact to register for training.

DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

October 8, 2012 – Columbus Day

November 12, 2012 – Veteran's Day

November 22, 2012 – Thanksgiving Day

December 25, 2012 – Christmas Day

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Offered Again in Dothan and Montgomery

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course is written to promote continuity of high quality care and learning for children for birth through five years of age. This course is an eighteen hour course which 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. Individuals are encouraged to attend all nine training sessions as together they address the development of the whole child.

After completing the entire course, participants will be awarded the Alabama Early Learning Guideline Credential by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Each 2 hour session attended will provide a Family Guidance Center certificate for that session.

There is no fee to attend the AELG Course. This course is for Child Care Directors, Child Care Center Teachers, Family and Group Child Care Providers, Relative Care Provider and Parents. All classes are taught by specifically trained Family Guidance Center staff. We will be offering the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines in October in Dothan and in January in Montgomery. You may sign up now!

Here are a few statements from participants in our July 2012 AELG Course:

Janet Robinson – Interested in becoming a Center Teacher
"An excellent course for all who have direct impact on the development of children. Just enough facts/studies/educational terms to provide structure – with lots of practical info and concrete examples. The book is clear, easy to use (other than bulky!) and is a valuable resource, especially for planning purposes. Major aspects of development are covered well. I enjoyed it much!"

Carla Bennett – Owner/Director of Nana's House Childcare Center
"I did enjoy the course and would recommend it to anyone seeking knowledge about child development. I believe the old saying "When you know to do better; you do better" would be an appropriate way to put it. We as child care professionals need to understand why children do what they do in order to fully embrace how important our work is. We have the responsibility each day of shaping the future of the children in our care. I fully intend to use the AELG book as part of the training for my staff. Thank you for offering the class and know that I fully intend to send more of my staff to it in the future."

Registration

Registration Procedures

- Registration is on a first come, first served basis.
- To attend any class please call the number listed below and on the calendar grid.
- Cancellation calls are accepted prior to the training. **Please remember that if you are not able to attend, by calling you will allow someone else to use that slot.**

Registration Guidelines

- To register in Montgomery please call 334.270.4100 ext. 235 or 1.800.499.6597 if long distance. To register in Dothan please call 334.712.7777 ext. 227 or 1.800.290.0933 if long distance.
- At either location, you may leave a voice mail message after office hours on the appropriate extension.
- Walk-ins will be accommodated as seating allows.

Registration Notes

SINCE CHILD CARE IS NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

Family Guidance Center's training is open to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, handicapping disability, age, sex, political beliefs or religions. If your attendance is hindered by transportation, language, location or any other reason, you may contact the Montgomery office at 334.270.4100 or 1.800.499.6597 or the Dothan office at 334.712.7777 or 1.800.290.0933 to discuss the matter. As resources are available, attempts will be made to overcome obstacles that hinder attendance. Funding provided by Alabama Department of Human Resources.