Save the Dates

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

- Resource Library Open House - Dothan
  March 20, 2018
  3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon - Montgomery
  Celebrating Child Care Leaders - April 25, 2018

- Supporting Children with Special Needs Conference
  Montgomery - May 19, 2018
  Caring for Children with Speech and Hearing Challenges and a Parent’s Perspective on Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Science Saturday - Montgomery
  June 9, 2018
  What is a Scientist?

- Opening Doors for Children with Special Needs Conference - Dothan
  August 2018

Gold Rush Gala 2018

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be holding its annual Gold Rush Gala on Friday, July 20 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, a silent auction, musical entertainment, cash bar, and grand prize drawings totaling $10,000! 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 59 years. Ask us about how you can get tickets by calling us at 270-4100 or 800-499-6597 or visit our website at www.familyguidancecenter.org.

So, put on your favorite western outfit and come on out to have a great time and support a wonderful organization on July 20.

We are going to have a great time! See you there!

What is S.T.E.M

STEM is a term that was initiated by the National Science Foundation. It refers to a philosophy which integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM is a way of thinking about how adults help children to integrate knowledge across disciplines, encouraging them to think in a more connected way. With a little guidance from adults, we can provide additional opportunities for children to engage in STEM activities. Consider these ideas:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
  Provide an assortment of building blocks for young children. When they make bridges, buildings, and ramps, they are incorporating engineering, math, and science. Add technology by encouraging children to use a computer to research the projects they work on. Build ramps to test which balls, cars or marbles go the fastest or farthest. Ramps can be made of blocks, a board, or cardboard.

- Do a cooking activity together. This is another great way to incorporate science, technology, and math. Add technology by encouraging children to use a computer to research the projects they work on.

- Take a nature walk with your children. Bring bags to hold “treasures” and encourage children to collect objects of interest-leaves, stones, seed pods, flowers, etc. Once back in class, the children can sort by color size, texture, and shape - an excellent math and science activity.

- Make it a game. What goes the farthest or fastest? Can you build a ramp that lets a ball, car or marble go the farthest? Ramps can be made of blocks, a board, or cardboard.

- Encourage children to integrate knowledge across disciplines, encouraging them to think in a more connected way. With a little guidance from adults, we can provide additional opportunities for children to engage in STEM activities.

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- Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference Recap


On January 27, 2018, Dothan had 46 participants attend Sensational Saturday. Montgomery’s conference was held on February 24, 2018 and had 379 participants attend. From the standing ovation she received, it was clear that all participants enjoyed Carole’s presentation. Thanks again to everyone who attended Sensational Saturday.

Carole really enjoyed the Southern Hospitality shown to her in both Dothan and Montgomery. You truly helped to make it a “Sensational Saturday”!
Celebrating Child Care Leaders

Family Guidance Center’s Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon - Celebrating Child Care Leaders will be held on April 25, 2018 in Montgomery. The Awards Luncheon promises to be a great opportunity to highlight the important work of child care providers in our area.

We know that there are many outstanding leaders in the field of early childhood education and our Spirit of Excellence Awards provide a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of leadership. If you would like to submit a nominee to be considered, please call the Child Care Education and Training Program at 800-499-6597 ext 289 and request a Nomination Form. The deadline for submission is March 30, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

We are excited to help celebrate the Week of the Young Child by focusing on the importance of your role in the lives of young children.

Week of the Young Child

This year’s Week of the Young Child™ celebration will be observed April 16-20. Celebrate during this special week with these activities recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Music Monday - Sing, dance, celebrate, and learn

TRY THIS: Find the beat to connect music, movement, and math. Practice clapping, drumming, or stomping to the beat of the music when counting.

Tasty Tuesday - Healthy eating and fitness at home and school

TRY THIS: Measure your ingredients while making your snacks! Ask children if they would like the same or different amounts of each ingredient.

Work Together Wednesday - Work together, build together, learn together

TRY THIS: Practice organizing blocks by size! Try building a block tower with large blocks on the bottom and little blocks on top!

Art Thursday - Think, problem solve, create

TRY THIS: Bring art outdoors! Offer dark and light paper, chalk and pastels, and suggest children create their own version of the day and night sky.

Family Friday - Sharing family stories

TRY THIS: Invite parents for a Family Friday breakfast, where children can prepare and share breakfast treats with their families!

Activities

Infant Activity - Feather Sensory Play

Materials: Box, soft feathers to fill container, larger objects such as: blocks, plastic eggs, or rubber ducks to hide in feathers

Fill box with soft feathers. Hide larger objects under the feathers which the infants can grab. Allow the infant to play in the box and discover the hidden items. This reinforces the development of the understanding of object permanence as well as exploration of the different textures.

Toddler Activity - Feather Painting

Materials: Large bird shaped paper, feathers, paint

Allow exploration of the feathers. Introduce the bird shape. Allow children to paint onto the bird shaped paper with the feather and paint. This reinforces fine motor skills and sensory experiences.

Preschool Activity - Feathered Birds

Materials: Feathers, string, card stock 2 inch circles, stickers, washi (patterned) tape, pom poms, beads, tape and glue, small hole punch

Tape feathers to bottom edge of one circle, then glue the two circles together. Punch hole in the top of both circles and attach the string. Encourage the students to string the beads in patterns on each side of string. Allow students to decorate the circle with stickers of birds, wash tape, etc. Knot necklace when complete.

Schoolage Activity - Feather Necklaces

Materials: Feathers, string, card stock 2 inch circles, stickers, washi (patterned) tape, pom poms, beads, tape and glue, small hole punch

Tape feathers to bottom edge of one circle, then glue the two circles together. Punch hole in the top of both circles and attach the string. Encourage the students to string the beads in patterns on each side of string. Allow students to decorate the circle with stickers of birds, wash tape, etc. Knot necklace when complete.

Dothan - Resource Library

Good news, we are ready for you to visit the newly relocated Resource Library in the Dothan office!

We are excited to welcome our new Resource Specialist, Michelle Glaze, to the Dothan Training Program. Michelle’s background and experiences in early childhood are clearly visible in her passion for working with young children and providers. She is ready to assist you with lesson plans, activity ideas and more! The Resource Library is open from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, (closed from 12:00 - 1:00 pm for lunch) with no appointment. We hope you will drop by the Resource Library, meet Michelle and see what we have to offer! If you have any questions, you may contact Michelle at 334-712-7777 ext. 224, 1-800-290-0933, or by email michelle.glaze@dhr.alabama.gov.