Save the Dates

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

- Art Saturday - Montgomery
  April 4, 2020

- Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon - Montgomery
  Celebrating Child Care Leaders - April 22, 2020

- Supporting Children with Special Needs Conference - Montgomery
  May 16, 2020

- Opening Doors for Children with Special Needs Conference - Dothan
  August 2020

2020 Olympic Bash

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be holding its Olympic Bash – Go For the Gold fundraising event on Friday, July 24 at 6:30 PM at the Alabama Activity Center on Dexter Avenue in downtown Montgomery. This olympic 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, photo booth, 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 60 years. Call us at 270-4100 or 800-499-6597 or visit our website at www.familyguidancecenter.org.

So come out and have an Olympic good time with us. See you there!

Week of the Young Child

It’s time to celebrate young children and those who take care of them. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) designates a week in April as Week of the Young Child. NAEYC is a nonprofit association that represents early childhood educators, families of young children, policy makers and advocates. Established in 1970, this week recognizes the importance of the early childhood years (birth to age 8) in building a foundation for children’s later success. Week of the Young Child highlights the needs of young children and their families as well as acknowledging programs and services that meet those needs. Each year NAEYC sets the week and themes for Week of the Young Child. Early childhood programs and community agencies/organizations can design and adapt the celebration to meet their needs. Over the past thirty years we have come to recognize the importance of a child’s learning and development in the early years. As early childhood professionals we are tasked with creating environments that promote their learning and development. This week allows us to shine a light on experiences, opportunities and the commitment we have to children and families in our communities.

According to NAEYC, this year’s Week of the Young Child is April 11th - 17th. The year’s celebrations include:

- Music Monday
  Encourage children to get up and move! Singing and dancing are great ways to be active while promoting gross motor skills, language and emotional development plus so much more.

- Tasty Tuesday
  Today is about more than eating delicious food. It is about building skills through cooking activities and promoting healthy habits and nutrition.

- Work Together Wednesday
  For this day create ways for children to build things or work together on projects. Look for fun ways to inspire teamwork!

- Art Day Thursday
  Get creative! Plan open-ended art activities. Provide a variety of child safe materials that let children design original creations by making choices and using their imagination.

- Family Friday
  Recognize families as children’s first teachers. Invite families in to participate in learning activities.

For more resources for Week of the Young Child, whether for the classroom or families, visit https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event.

Thank you for all that you do to enrich the lives of children and families in our community.

Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference Recap

Family Guidance Center in both Dothan and Montgomery welcomed Shawn Brown of the Super Fun Show from Atlanta as the presenter for Sensational Saturday 2020. The title of the training sessions for the conference were:

- Behavior Management with Music and Other Techniques
- Emotional Support: Music and Techniques to Support Emotional Health

On January 25, 2020, Dothan had a record crowd of 251 attend Sensational Saturday. Montgomery’s conference was held on February 22, 2020 and had over 400 participants attend. Everyone in attendance received a free CD to be used with the children.

Thanks again to everyone who attended Sensational Saturday. Your participation helped to make it “Sensational”!
Family Guidance Center's Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon - Celebrating Child Care Leaders will be held on April 22, 2020 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 800-499-6507 ext 289 and request a Nomination Form. The deadline for submission is March 27, 2020 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.

Resource Library - Dothan

The Dothan Resource Library has a variety of resources available to local child care providers.

Everyone is invited to come by from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and browse our collections. The library blazed into 2020 with a rocket and space theme loaded with fun and exciting books, die cuts, fingerplays and ideas to inspire. We even have our own rocket ship and moon rocks! You should see our astronauts floating among the planets!

New to hit the shelves is an exciting series of board books titled “World Snacks Books” authored by Amy Wilson Sanger. This series includes five collections. New to hit the shelves is an exciting series of board books titled “World Snacks Books” authored by Amy Wilson Sanger. This series includes five collections.

Family Guidance Center supports child care providers in our area by providing reading ideas and feature resources related to the highlighted theme/holiday each month.

Newsletter filled with ideas, activities, and featured resources related to the highlighted theme/holiday each month.

Family Guidance Center partners with ProSolutions Training to offer online training. Through this partnership you are able to earn a portion of your training hours to meet the DIRR requirements through their online courses.

Toddler Quality Tip

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “Screen time should be ‘held off’ until age two. (TV, computer, phones.)

Their rationale:

TV is not educational - A live person demonstrating a concept is always better.

TV is distracting - A toddler benefits more from actually playing, than inactively staring at a screen.

TV is linked with slower language acquisition because TV time leads to display conversation time between babies and adults.

Dates Our Offices Will Be Closed

April 27, 2020 – Confederate Memorial Day
May 25, 2020 – Memorial Day
June 1, 2020 – Jefferson Davis’ Birthday

The National Safety Council has an app now available from the App Store and Google Play. The NSC Emergency Medical Response Quick Reference Guide is a vital reference tool available to anyone who would like first aid guidance at their fingertips. It provides a list of treatment steps for various illnesses and injuries from bites and stings to CPR steps.

Search ‘National Safety Council’ to find and install this convenient, easy to use digital guide. It’s free and can help you save a life.

Be sure to check the training calendar for your region for training classes to help you and your staff meet the CCDF Requirement Areas.