**Sensational Saturday 2018**

The Child Care Education and Training Programs in Dothan and Montgomery are excited to announce that children's musician Carole Petrie Stephens, will be the special speaker for our Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference 2018.

Carole Stephens, of Park Ridge, IL, is a children’s musician dubbed “the Pied Piper of children’s music.” Carole is a nationally renowned music specialist whose cross-curricular music and guidance techniques instantly invite all audiences from the youngest child to the oldest adult to join in the singing, dancing and rhythmic movement.

Carole's CD's are available for checkout in the Resource Library in both Dothan and Montgomery.

**Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Dothan**
Saturday, January 27, 2018

**Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Montgomery**
Saturday, February 24, 2018

Hope to see you at Sensational Saturday 2018!

Remember you must register to attend.

Day for Directors

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, Family Guidance Center’s Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery will be hosting a Director’s Conference. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jackie Alexander DiPofi of Auburn, AL. Jackie will be discussing marketing in the child care industry.

Dr. Alexander is the author of the book, Marketing in 1 word: RAMPS. Help for Small Business Owners. Her presentation will focus on the effective RAMPS model of marketing that highlights research, advertising, merchandising, promotions, and sales.

The conference is for Directors, Assistant Directors, and/or Owners of center-based child care.

Remember you must register to attend.

Please call the Montgomery Child Care Education and Training Program at 334-270-4100 ext 235 to register.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**CCDF Online Training Opportunities**

All child care providers (excluding relative care providers) providing care for children under the subsidy program, are required to receive training in the CCDF Health and Safety Areas. Included in your newsletter are two flyers (e-Training and e-learning) with information about on-line training opportunities. Also, continue to check the training calendar for additional face-to-face training opportunities in the CCDF Areas.

**10 Effective DAP Teaching Strategies**

Teaching strategies refer to the structure, system, methods, techniques, procedures and processes that a teacher uses during instruction. These are the strategies the teacher employs to assist student learning. An effective teacher or family child care provider chooses a strategy to fit a particular situation. It’s important to consider what the children already know and can do and the learning goals for the specific situation. By remaining flexible and observant, we can determine which strategy may be most effective. Often, if one strategy doesn’t work, another will.

- **Acknowledge** what children do or say. Let children know that you have noticed by giving positive attention, sometimes through comments, sometimes through just sitting nearby and observing. (“Thanks for your help, Kate.” “You found another way to show 6.”)

- **Encourage** persistence and effort rather than just praising and evaluating what the child has done. (“You’re thinking of lots of words to describe the dog in the story. Let’s keep going!”)

- **Give specific feedback** rather than general comments. (“The beanbag didn’t get all the way to the hoop, James, so you might try throwing it harder.”)

- **Model** attitudes, ways of approaching problems, and behavior toward others, showing children rather than just telling them (“Hmm, that didn’t work and I need to think about why.” “I’m sorry, Ben, I missed part of what you said. Please tell me again.”)

- **Demonstrate** the correct way to do something. This usually involves a procedure that needs to be done in a certain way (such as using a wire whisk or writing the letter P).

- **Create or add challenge** so that a task goes a bit beyond what the children can already do. For example, you lay out a collection of chips, count them together and then ask a small group of children to tell you how many are left after they see you removing some of the chips. The children count the remaining chips to help come up with the answer. To add a challenge, you could hide the chips after you remove some, and the children will have to use a strategy other than counting the remaining chips to come up with the answer. To **reduce challenge**, you could simplify the task by guiding the children to touch each chip once as they count the remaining chips.

- **Ask questions** that provoke children’s thinking. (“If you couldn’t talk to your partner, how else could you let him know what to do?”)

- **Give assistance** (such as a cue or hint) to help children work on the edge of their current competence (“Can you think of a word that rhymes with your name, Matt? How about bat . . . Mat-bat! What else rhymes with Matt and bat?”)

- **Provide information**, directly giving children facts, verbal labels, and other information. (“This one that looks like a big mouse with a short tail is called a mole.”)

- **Give directions** for children’s action or behavior. (“Touch each block only once as you count them.”)

Incorporating these strategies into the classroom teachers meet young children where they are (by stage of development), both as individuals and as part of a group and help each child meet challenging and achievable learning goals.
Montgomery’s Child Care Education and Training Program will be offering the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course in March. 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 calendar for the dates and times of the course.

The Dothan Child Care Education and Training Program will be offering the AELG Course in the Spring quarter. Please continue to check their calendar for the dates and times of the course.

CDA Update

Important news for CDA candidates: there will be a fee increase for initial CDA paper applications. After December 29, 2017, the paper application assessment fee will increase to $500.00. You can save $75.00 by applying online. Applying online allows for faster processing of complete applications. Candidates can upload both the initial application and the renewal application. To upload your documents you will need to create an online YourCDA account. Tutorials will guide you through the process.

If you need to convert training into clock hours, please use the following formulas:

1 CEE = 10 clock hours
1 Semester Credit = 15 clock hours
1 Quarter Credit = 10 clock hours

To be eligible for your first CDA you need 12 CEs = 120 clock hours
8 Semester Credits = 120 clock hours
12 Quarter Credits = 120 clock hours

For all you do for young children, thank you and Happy New Year!

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 PGC online training specialist and complete an enrollment form
2. Verify that you have worked at least half of your yearly required training hours as face to face classes at PGC
3. Call and talk to the FGC online training specialist and complete an enrollment form

Infant Quality Tip

Baby’s First Year

The first year of a child’s life is the most critical time of growth and development. Early and high-quality care is extremely important during this time. During these first 12 months of life, the infant’s brain, mind and personality take shape that are influenced by everyday experiences of learning and development provided by parents and caregivers. This development is further enhanced by parental input.

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

DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

January 1, 2018 – New Year’s Day
January 15, 2018 – Martin Luther King, Jr./Robert E. Lee Day
February 20, 2018 – Presidents’ Day