Save the Dates

**Save the Date**

**Directors Conference** - Dothan  
July 29, 2019

**Alabama Early Learning Guidelines** - Montgomery  
August 4 - August 22, 2019

**Opening Doors for Children**  
with Special Needs Conference - Dothan  
September 14, 2019

Please call your local Training Department for more information!

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Agencies Events 2019

**Diamonds & Denim Gala 2019**

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be holding its annual Gala Event on Friday, July 19 at 6:30 PM at the Alabama Activity Center on Dexter Avenue in downtown Montgomery. This year’s Gala will highlight FGC’s 60th Anniversary 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, 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 60 years. Call us at 270-4100 or 800-499-6597 or visit our website at www.familyguidancecenter.org.

**FGC Walk/Run 2019**

Family Guidance Center of Alabama will be hosting its Annual 5k/10k Walk/Run on Saturday, September 7 at 7:30 AM at The Shoppes at EastChase in Montgomery. All proceeds to benefit the programs and services of the agency. Start your weekend off well and come on out and walk or run with us. Always loads of fun. Great prizes and food. Get more info or register at www.familyguidancecenter.org. Thanks everyone!

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**What is Childhood Assessment?**

Childhood assessment is a process of gathering information about a child, reviewing the information, and then using the information to plan educational activities that are at a level the child can understand and is able to learn from.

Angela Notari-Syverson, Senior Researcher at the Washington Research Institute and Angela Losardo, Appalachian State University emphasize that quality programs are built upon careful planning and purposeful teaching that result from making thoughtful, well informed decisions about what works best and what might need to be improved. Ongoing evaluation and assessment are important parts of this process. Alternative approaches place great importance on observations of young children in the context of everyday interactions, the influence of context and culture on learning, and involvement of families in all aspects of the assessment process. Equally important is the collaboration among practitioners with families in the use of multiple sources of information and methods for assessment.

Assessment is a critical part of a high-quality, early childhood program. When educators do an assessment, they observe a child to get information about what he knows and what he can do. Observing and documenting a child’s work and performance over the course of a year allows an educator to accumulate a record of the child’s growth and development. With this information, educators can begin to plan appropriate curriculum and effective individualized instruction for each child.

This assessment record is also a great tool to share with parents so they can follow their child’s progress at school, understand their child’s strengths and challenges, and plan how they can help extend the learning into their homes.

Why is assessment important?

Assessment provides educators, parents, and families with critical information about a child’s development and growth.

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Family Guidance Center’s Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery celebrated the Week of the Young Child with our Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon - Celebrating Child Care Leaders on April 24, 2019. During the event we honored 3 leaders in the field of early childhood education.

The Week of the Young Child has been celebrated since 1971 and it is a time to remind ourselves of the important role that we play in the lives of children each and every day. It is also a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to reconnect ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment - at home, at child care, at school, and in the community - that will promote their early learning.

Beth Beam, of Bell Road Preschool in Montgomery and Demetria Pollard, of Early Childhood Development Center - First United Methodist Church also in Montgomery, were awarded the Dedication to Children Award.

Beth has been active in the field of early childhood education for over 25 years. Demetria has been active in the field of early childhood education for 20 years. Both Beth and Demetria’s love for children can be seen through their many years of service to the children in our area and they are dedicated to providing quality care for the children in their classrooms.

Rita E. Green, of Hanel and Grest Child Care Center in Montgomery, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. Rita was recognized for her 42 years of experience in the child care field and for her advocacy work for Alabama’s children.

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On behalf of everyone in the Child Care Education and Training Programs in Dothan and Montgomery, we would like to say a special THANK YOU to everyone who attended our special events and conferences. Your participation in these special events is what makes them so wonderful! We enjoyed seeing each and every one of you!

Please continue to look for more exciting events and trainings in our Calendars and Newsletter! And don’t forget to share the Calendar and Newsletter with your staff and language development in all children. With before and after pictures the participants were shown examples of how to adapt the learning environment to meet the needs of all children in the classroom. Participants were able to discuss concerns that they have in their classroom and left the training with concrete ideas/strategies they can use in their classrooms.

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery held their Special Needs Conference. Shannon Cook, from Dothan, Alabama was the presenter for the 4 hour conference. The title of her presentation was Helping Your Classroom to be a Place Where All Children Grow and Develop. Shannon presented information on all disabilities that qualify for special education services and what they look like in the classroom and then ways to accommodate each disability. Shannon discussed the important role childhood educators have in developing the social/emotional development, physical development, cognitive development, and speech

Dressing Infants for Summer Heat

Once it gets over 80 degrees, the body has a hard time cooling off - especially for babies. Babies have less sweat, which is their only way of cooling down. They can be more prone to heat exhaustion and sunburn. Make sure baby is dressed in lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that is easy for parents to remove in case baby gets too warm.

Your Competent Toddler

According to the article, Your Competent Toddler, toddlers will tantrum less and cooperate more if they feel powerful. The article continues to say that there are three key things to make toddlers feel more powerful:

1) Listen to them,
2) Let them make decisions whenever possible,
3) Give them opportunities to experience competence, which will make them feel more powerful.

For more information go to aba parenting.com and search Your Competent Toddler.

Congratulations to the nine participants from the Montgomery Region and the ten participants from the Dothan Region who completed the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course. The participants will receive the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Credential from the Child Care Services Division of the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Congratulations!!

There are a few of the comments from the participants:

I enjoyed the lessons as a nursery parent.
The information given is great for parents and teachers. Teachers will excel greatly after this class. - C. Harris

I learned a lot of valuable information during this course and the information gained will allow me to be an adopt home provider. - P. Williams