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 promises to be lots of fun again this year. The evening will include dinner from Jim N Nick’s, 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.

**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!

**Arty 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”!
Celebrating Child Care Leaders

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 blasted 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 the shelves is an exciting series of boards books titled “World Snacks Books” authored by Amy Wilson Sanger. This series highlights food of 7 varying ethnicities. The books use the cultural terminology to describe the different foods. They are titled: "World Snacks Books". New die cut patterns include a camping collection, toddler fingerplays and ideas to inspire. We even have our own rocket ship and moon rocks! You should see our astronauts floating among the planets!

It’s Nosh!, Hola! Jalapeno!, Yum, Yum, Dim Sum, A Chat and Sweets

First, they will add the white stem shape and glue the flowers to the bottom. Last, they will add the green stem shape and glue the flowers to white card stock, scissors, glue. Lead children in dipping the bottom of the bottle into the paint and pressing it onto the paper creating a flower pattern. Use Spring colors and allow blending of color to create a bouquet on a page!

So, come by and look around. We are sure you will find something to enrich the quality care you provide in the Family Guidance Center-Dothan area counties served. Be sure to let us know if we can help in any way. Contact Michelle Woodham at 334.712.7777, Ext 226.

Activities

Infant Activity - Beautiful Bouquet

Materials: assortment of silk flowers, collander with holes that fit stems of flowers.

Cut flowers into single stems and make sure to bend and tape the ends so there are no sharp edges. Encourage infants to explore the flowers with their senses. Then, allow them to create bouquets by putting flowers through the holes in the collander to enhance motor skill development and coordination.

Toddler Activity - Bottle stamped Bouquet

Materials: a liter plastic soda bottle, large pieces of paper, paint

Lead children in dipping the bottom of the bottle into the paint and pressing it onto the paper creating a flower pattern. Use Spring colors and allow blending of color to create a bouquet on a page!

Preschool Activity - Red Rose Bouquet

Materials: one celery bunch with root base, paints, brush, paper

Group the stalks at the top and bottom with rubber bands or string. Cut off the base. Instruct the children to dip the end into the paint and stamp the design on the paper to resemble roses. Allow them to complete the bouquet by adding green stems with paint and a paintbrush.

Schoolage Activity - Kasadaisy Circle Flower Bouquet

Materials: construction paper in rainbow colors, white card stock, scissors, glue

First, have children place their paper in rainbow order. Second, instruct them to cut a small circle from the first color. Explain that they will make the next color circle a little bigger than the first and continue for all the colors getting larger each time. Third, using scissors, children will cut slits around each circle for petals. Fourth, have them glue the circles together to form a flower shape layering the circles smallest to largest on the bottom. Last, they will add the green stem shape and glue the flowers to white card stock.

Research has shown that babies like to be imitated. We tend to imitate behavior back to babies in an exaggerated way, which is exactly what babies need, it helps them learn about their own emotional experiences. Setting it reflected back helps them gain understanding of the environment and emotions around them.

Day for Directors Recap

On Saturday, January 25, 2020 Family Guidance Center’s Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery held their annual Directors Conference. We had 52 child care directors, assistant directors and owners attend the conference. The topic for the conference was Management 2020: Handbooks, Marketing, and Financial Growth. We had very positive comments from the participants.

Online Training Opportunities

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 DHHR requirements through their online courses.

First, call and talk to the FGC online training specialist and complete the enrollment form.

2. Verify that you have worked a full year in child care

3. Verify that you have taken at least half of your yearly required training hours as face to face classes at FGC

Primary Position at Center/Home Required DHHR Hours Online Hours
Center Director 24 hours yearly 12 hours yearly
Center Teacher 12 hours yearly 6 hours yearly
Center Support Staff 4 hours yearly 2 hours yearly
Family Child Care Provider 20 hours yearly 10 hours yearly

If you are interested in this training opportunity, please call the training department for more information.

CDA Update

You must renew your CDA Credential before it expires. You may submit your CDA Renewal Application no sooner than six months before your credential expiration date; make sure to prepare in advance and be ready to submit a complete application with supporting documents when your renewal window opens. Before you submit your renewal packet, make sure that you meet the requirements for the professional development category, the continued work with children category, and that you have a valid CPR/FA Card.

For more information on the CDA, please visit their website: www.cdacouncil.org

Update for Directors

Every other month, the FGC Training Program offers a thirty-minute teleconference for Directors. One hour credit is given. This is a convenient way to gain insight and to connect with other Directors in your area. Without leaving your center, you can learn about new trends in child care and engage in discussion about ways to improve your center and staff dynamics. This quarter a director teleconference will be held on:

Wednesday, May 6th from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Your Program’s Reputation Depends on Staff Engagement

Please see the Dothan or Montgomery training calendar for more information on the director’s teleconferences.

Dates our Offices will be Closed

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

Health and Safety Tip

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.

Infant Activity - Beautiful Bouquet

Research has shown that babies like to be imitated. We tend to imitate behavior back to babies in an exaggerated way, which is exactly what babies need, it helps them learn about their own emotional experiences. Setting it reflected back helps them gain understanding of the environment and emotions around them.

Day for Directors Recap

On Saturday, January 25, 2020 Family Guidance Center’s Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery held their annual Directors Conference. We had 52 child care directors, assistant directors and owners attend the conference. The topic for the conference was Management 2020: Handbooks, Marketing, and Financial Growth. We had very positive comments from the participants.

Online Training Opportunities

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 DHHR requirements through their online courses.

Three easy steps to enroll:

1. Call and talk to the FGC online training specialist and complete the enrollment form

2. Verify that you have worked a full year in child care

3. Verify that you have taken at least half of your yearly required training hours as face to face classes at FGC

Primary Position at Center/Home Required DHHR Hours Online Hours
Center Director 24 hours yearly 12 hours yearly
Center Teacher 12 hours yearly 6 hours yearly
Center Support Staff 4 hours yearly 2 hours yearly
Family Child Care Provider 20 hours yearly 10 hours yearly

If you are interested in this training opportunity, please call the training department for more information.

CDA Update

You must renew your CDA Credential before it expires. You may submit your CDA Renewal Application no sooner than six months before your credential expiration date; make sure to prepare in advance and be ready to submit a complete application with supporting documents when your renewal window opens. Before you submit your renewal packet, make sure that you meet the requirements for the professional development category, the continued work with children category, and that you have a valid CPR/FA Card.

For more information on the CDA, please visit their website: www.cdacouncil.org

Update for Directors

Every other month, the FGC Training Program offers a thirty-minute teleconference for Directors. One hour credit is given. This is a convenient way to gain insight and to connect with other Directors in your area. Without leaving your center, you can learn about new trends in child care and engage in discussion about ways to improve your center and staff dynamics. This quarter a director teleconference will be held on:

Wednesday, May 6th from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Your Program’s Reputation Depends on Staff Engagement

Please see the Dothan or Montgomery training calendar for more information on the director’s teleconferences.

DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

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

Health and Safety Tip

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.

Infant Activity - Beautiful Bouquet

Research has shown that babies like to be imitated. We tend to imitate behavior back to babies in an exaggerated way, which is exactly what babies need, it helps them learn about their own emotional experiences. Setting it reflected back helps them gain understanding of the environment and emotions around them.