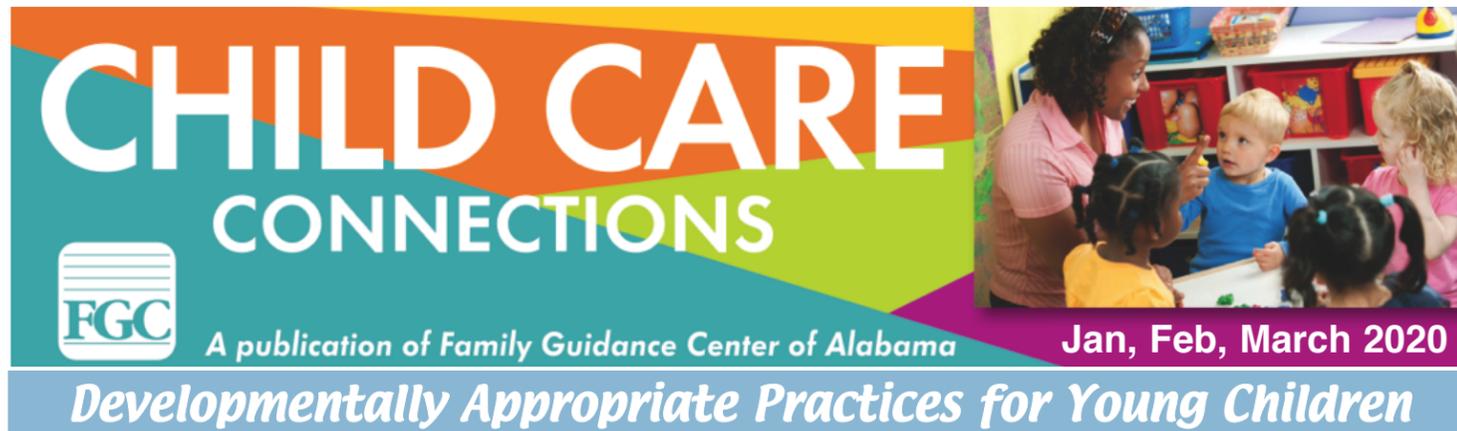




Family Guidance Center of Alabama
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Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children

www.familyguidancecenter.org

January, February, March Newsletter/Calendar 2020

Day for Directors

On Saturday, January 25, 2020, Family Guidance Center's Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery will hold our Directors Conference. The topic for this year's conference is:

Management 2020: Handbooks, Marketing and Financial Growth.

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!



Sensational Saturday 2020

The Child Care Education and Training Program in Dothan and Montgomery are excited to announce that Shawn Brown, Super Fun Show will be the special speaker for our Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference 2020. Shawn, originally from Chicago, Illinois and now Johns Creek, Georgia writes and implements unique and entertaining curriculum enhancement programs for child care centers, elementary schools and private schools. He uses his infectious music for hooking his audience into learning and moving while having "Super Fun."



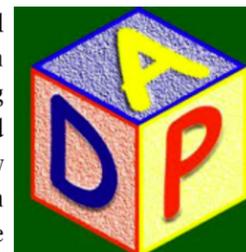
Shawn's CD's are available for checkout in the Resource Library in both Dothan and Montgomery.

Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Dothan
Saturday, January 25, 2020 - Wallace Community College, Cherry Hall

Sensational Saturday Child Care Conference - Montgomery
Saturday, February 22, 2020 - AUM Taylor Center

Hope to see you at Sensational Saturday 2020!

In an article published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the International Reading Association, they have suggested recommendations for Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) when working with children of all age groups. DAP looks at the whole child and how activities can benefit all children in a classroom. In addition to DAP activities, children need relationships with caring adults who engage in many one-on-one, face-to-face interactions with them to support their oral language development and lay the foundation for later literacy learning.



For infants and toddlers these important experiences and teaching behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Talking to babies and toddlers with simple language, frequent eye contact, and responsiveness to children's cues and language attempts
- Frequently playing with, talking to, singing to, and doing fingerplays with very young children
- Sharing cardboard books with babies and frequently reading to toddlers on the adult's lap or together with one or two other children
- Providing simple art materials such as crayons, markers, and large paper for toddlers to explore and manipulate



During the preschool years, young children need developmentally appropriate experiences and teaching to support literacy learning. These include but are not limited to:

- Positive, nurturing relationships with adults who engage in responsive conversations with individual children, model reading and writing behavior, and foster children's interest in and enjoyment of reading and writing
- Print-rich environments that provide opportunities and tools for children to see and use written language for a variety of purposes, with teachers drawing children's attention to specific letters and words
- Adults' daily reading of high-quality books to individual children or small groups, including books that positively reflect children's identity, home language, and culture



- Opportunities for children to talk about what is read and to focus on the sounds and parts of language as well as the meaning
- Teaching strategies and experiences that develop phonemic awareness, such as songs, fingerplays, games, poems, and stories in which phonemic patterns such as rhyme and alliteration are salient
- Opportunities to engage in play that incorporates literacy tools, such as writing grocery lists in dramatic play, making signs in block building, and using icons and words in exploring a computer game
- Firsthand experiences that expand children's vocabulary, such as trips in the community and exposure to various tools, objects, and materials

In kindergarten and primary grades, teachers should continue many of these same good practices with the goal of continually advancing children's learning and development. In addition, every child is entitled to excellent instruction in reading and writing that includes but is not limited to:

- Daily experiences of being read to and independently reading meaningful and engaging stories and informational texts
- A balanced instructional program that includes systematic code instruction along with meaningful reading and writing activities
- Daily opportunities and teacher support to write many kinds of texts for different purposes, including stories, lists, messages to others, poems, reports, and responses to literature
- Writing experiences that allow the flexibility to use nonconventional forms of writing at first (invented or phonic spelling) and over time move to conventional forms
- Opportunities to work in small groups for focused instruction and collaboration with other children
- An intellectually engaging and challenging curriculum that expands knowledge of the world and vocabulary
- Adaptation of instructional strategies or more individualized instruction if the child fails to make expected progress in reading or when literacy skills are advanced



Although experiences during the earliest years of life can have powerful long-term consequences, human beings are amazingly resilient and incredibly capable of learning throughout life. We should strengthen our resolve to ensure that every child has the benefit of positive early childhood experiences that support literacy development and other experience that lay a strong foundation for future learning.

Movie Night - Montgomery

Mark your calendars for February 13th at 6:00 pm and join the staff of the Montgomery Training Program as we view and discuss the movie *Temple Grandin*. Director Mick Jackson teams with screenwriters Christopher Monger and William Merritt Johnson to tell the story of autistic icon Temple Grandin, a woman who refused to let her disorder limit her true potential. Adapted from Grandin's own writings, the film allows the audience to experience the world much like she does while recounting her colorful life and remarkable achievements from childhood to adulthood.



Health and Safety Tip

As we begin 2020, take time to think about safety. Update your emergency plans now. Make sure all staff know their role for each type of emergency and actions they are supposed to take. Check routes for obstacles or situations that might prevent speedy evacuation. Brainstorm situations that you may not have thought of. Perhaps the steps have ice; maybe your evacuation site is being remodeled. Update contact information for staff and children. Check expiration dates on stored items. If you transport children, check expiration dates on car seats and replace if out of date. Check vehicle inspection dates. Make sure first-aid and CPR credentials are current and make plans to renew any if needed. Let's make 2020 a safe and healthy year.

Resource Library - Dothan

On Friday, November 15, 2019, the Dothan Resource Library held a Fall Open House. Child care providers were invited to tour newly updated areas of the library. Decorated in an autumn, woody campsite theme, new kits, books and materials and ideas for Thanksgiving activities were displayed. Attendees enjoyed refreshments of cookies, hot cocoa, and apple cider. An ornament decorating station was available. Door prizes were also awarded.

We invite everyone to stop in and try out our new die cuts that include: a toddler friendly set of zoo animals, new space series (shuttle, astronaut and planets), and camping series. We have also added new books, and infant/toddler kits. Don't forget about our new Christmas die cuts from last year, we have large elves, 3D reindeer, fun snow globes and a winter variety set. There are many great ideas to be found at the Dothan Resource Library!



For more information contact Michelle Woodham at 334-712-7777.

Penguin Fun

Infants: Penguin Finger Play

Materials: black glove with painted penguin eyes, beak, and belly on each fingertip

Use the glove to interact with the infant while chanting the song. Encourage them to reach out and hold the penguin fingers as you recite. You can also provide a soft penguin toy for them to hold.

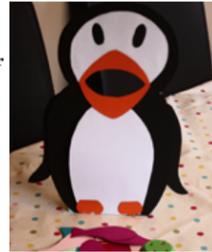
"Five little penguins standing in a row, five little penguins standing in the snow! Brrr! It's cold! I cannot stay! And one little penguin walked away."



Toddlers: Feed the Hungry Penguin

Materials: small box or can, construction paper cutout of penguin, fish cutouts

Attach penguin to the side of the box or the can. Be sure to have the mouth cut open on the penguin. Instruct children on how many fish to feed to the penguin.



Preschoolers: Penguin Mosaic

Materials: small squares of paper in white and black, 2 black circles for eyes, orange beak, light blue background paper, simple pattern of penguin, stick glue

Trace the pattern of the penguin on the blue paper. Instruct children to fill in the center with the glue and white squares. Next, have them fill in the outline area and feet with stick glue and the black squares. Direct them to add the eyes and beak and follow up with the rest of the white squares for the white snow in the background.

Schoolagers: Penguin Bottles

Materials: orange and black paper, google eyes, cotton balls, water bottle, black feathers, scissors, glue

Instruct the students to stuff the bottle with the cotton balls. Then they may complete the penguin using construction paper to cutout feet, wings, beak and add google eyes. Have them wrap a piece of black paper around the cap and add a feather to complete the look.



Infant Quality Tip

Infants are in the sensory-motor stage of development, so they learn through play. Activities need to stimulate baby's sense of touch, smell, taste, sight, hearing and/or movement. That means that our job is to fill their environment with a variety of hands-on experiences, the words to enrich the experiences, and loving, responsive care.



AELG Face-to-Face - Montgomery

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.

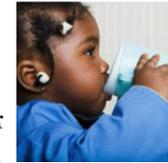
The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Credential is an important milestone on the Career Lattice of Alabama Child Care and Education Professional Development System - Pathways to Quality Care and Education.

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.

Toddler Quality Tip

Transitioning from a bottle to a sippy cup can be an adjustment for some toddlers. Most pediatricians suggest you should begin this transition between 12-18 months. The longer you wait, the tougher it is for the child to let go of the bottle.

To begin the transition, introduce a sippy cup at the lunchtime feeding. The evening feeding should be the last to go because the child is probably most attached to the evening bottle, especially when it's a big part of their bedtime ritual. Stick to your nightly routine but give them a snack or a cup of milk before putting them down to sleep.



Update for Directors

This quarter, both Dothan and Montgomery locations will be offering special trainings for directors. These trainings are the **Especially for Directors** series and are held for Owners, Directors and Assistant Directors of day care centers.

Directors' Conference - Montgomery

Management 2020: Handbooks, Marketing and Financial Growth - January 25, 2020

Especially for Directors - Dothan

Stress - Is It a Big Deal - January 29, 2020

Especially for Directors Teleconference

The Child Care Director: Not Just Anyone Can Do This Job - March 11, 2020

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, 2020 – New Year's Day

January 20, 2020 – Martin Luther King, Jr./Robert E. Lee Day

February 17, 2020 – Presidents' Day

CDA Update

•The CDA Credential requires 120 hours of professional education in early childhood development, and 480 hours of work experience along with a professional portfolio.

•There are four different settings in which you can become certified: center-based preschool (works with children ages 3-5), center-based infant/toddler (works with children ages birth-36 months), home-based family child care (works with children ages birth-5 years old) and home visitor (works with families of children ages birth-5 years old).

•The credentialing process also values parental involvement. Therefore, a CDA Credential candidate's portfolio will include feedback from the parents of children with whom the candidate worked during the training process.

•To be officially granted the CDA Credential, you must take an exam and participate in a verification visit.

For additional information visit their website - www.CDACouncil.org

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 FGC online training specialist and complete 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

If you are interested in this training opportunity, please call the Training Department for additional information. For the Dothan area, please call 334-712-7777, ext. 227. For the Montgomery area, please call 334-270-4100 ext. 235. Please ask to speak to the Online Training Specialist, or, if necessary, please leave your name, phone number and a brief message and your call will be returned.

Save the Date



The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we - as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation - will better meet the needs of all young children and their families. (www.naeyc.org)

Week of the Young Child Celebrations - Dothan and Montgomery

To Be Held in April 2020