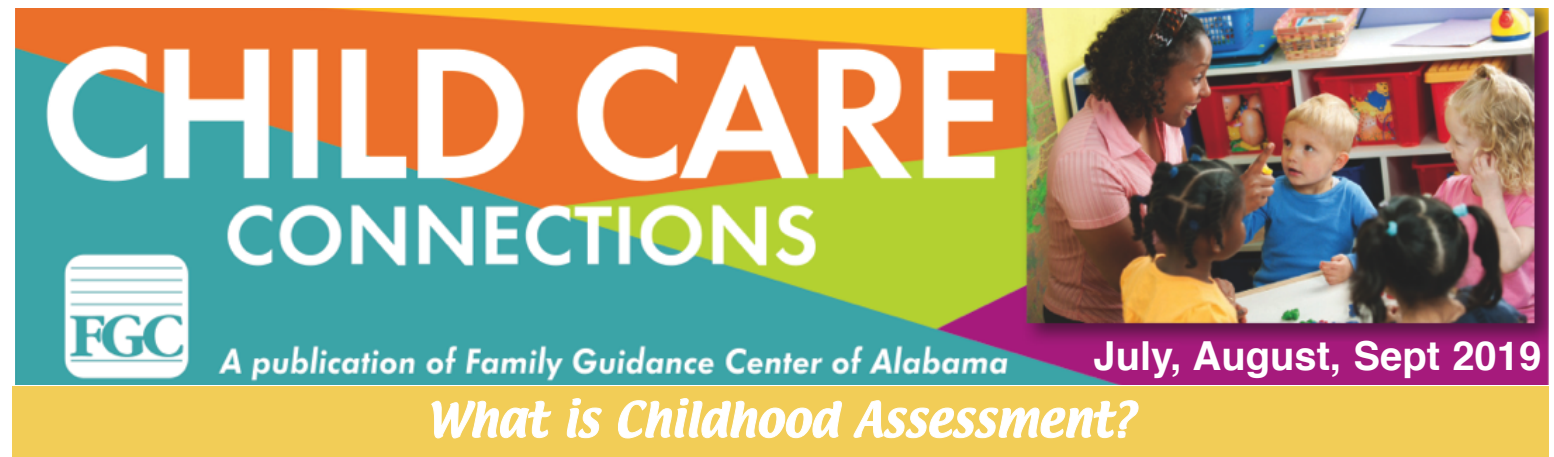




Family Guidance Center of Alabama
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Montgomery, Alabama 36116

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July, August, September Newsletter/Calendar 2019

Save the Dates



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!

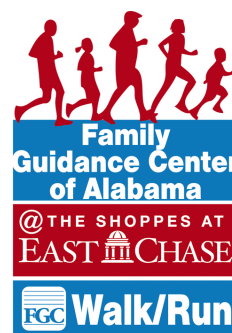
Agency Events 2019

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!!

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.

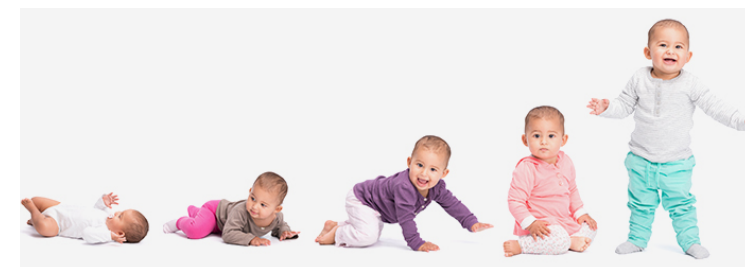
Angela Notari-Syverson, Senior Researcher at the Washington Research Institute and Angela Losardo, Appalachian State University emphasize that quality programs are built upon careful planning and purposeful teaching that result from making thoughtful, well informed decisions about what works best and 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.

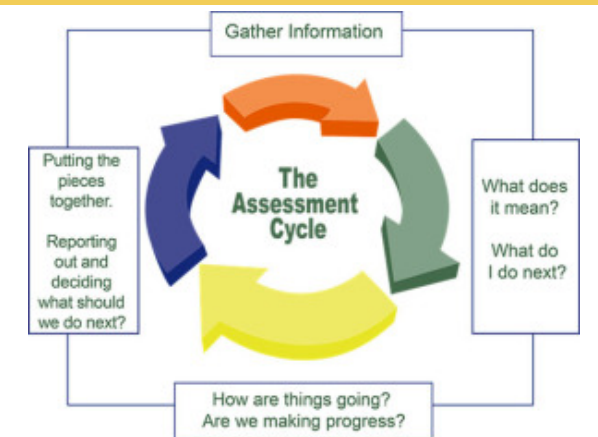
This assessment record is also a great tool to share with parents so they can follow their child's progress at school, understand their child's strengths and challenges, and plan how they can help extend the learning into their homes.

Why is assessment important?

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



Stages of Development



Assessment can:

- Provide a record of growth in all developmental areas: cognitive, physical/motor, language, social-emotional, and approaches to learning.
- Identify children who may need additional support and determine if there is a need for intervention or support services.
- Help educators plan individualized instruction for a child or for a group of children who are at the same stage of development.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses within a program and information on how well the program meets the goals and needs of the children.
- Provide a common ground between educators and parents or families to use in collaborating on a strategy to support their child.

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) supports the use of child assessment systems in preschool settings to help educators individualize instruction and improve programs. To find more information on early childhood assessment, visit the EEC website (<http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care>) and click on "Birth - Grade 12" at the top of the page.

Assessments help teachers communicate important milestones in children's development to families and provide opportunities for teachers and parents to work together to support children as they grow. Assessments also help teachers to understand the performance of the children in their care. It also helps teachers in ensuring that the children are reaching important milestones in their development.

Spirit of Excellence Awards

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 recommit 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 F. Green, of Hansel and Gretel 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.

Jimmy Hill, President and CEO of the River Region United Way, was the speaker for the event.

We were excited to celebrate the Week of the Young Child by focusing on the important role child care leaders play in the lives of the children in our area.

Congratulations to all of the honorees and thank you to all who attended who helped us celebrate all child care leaders.



Beth Beam



Demetria Pollard and Rita Green
(Pictured L - R)

Activities

Infants: *Sea Animal Discovery Bag*

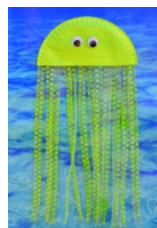
Materials: gallon zipper bag, large bottle blue gel, plastic sea animals, clear packing tape

Add all items to the bag. Close bag being sure to press out all air. Seal all edges well with packing tape. Allow children to explore contents of the bag. Use with supervision.



Toddlers: *Bubble Wrap Jellyfish*

Materials: paper plate, bubble wrap, cardstock, paint, glue
Cut plate in half. Cut the bubble wrap into strips. Paint all pieces, and allow to dry. Tape bubble wrap strips to the flat edge of the plate. Make eyes out of cardstock and glue to the body.



Preschoolers: *Coffee Filter Jellyfish*

Materials: coffee filter, watercolor paint, curling ribbon or tissue paper, cardstock or google eyes, glue
Paint coffee filter with watercolors and allow to dry. Cut ribbon or tissue paper into strips. Fold coffee filter in half and attach strips or ribbon along the flat edge. Make eyes out of cardstock or add google eyes and glue to the body.



Schoolagers: *Soda Bottle Jellyfish*

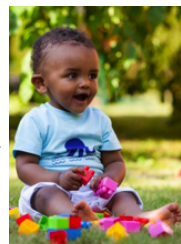
Materials: soda bottle, cardstock or google eyes, curling ribbon or yarn, hole punch, sandpaper, glue

For the body, cut the end of the bottle off, sand if needed to remove any sharp edges. Punch holes around the edges and tie colored ribbon or yarn through each hole. Make eyes out of cardstock or add google eyes and glue to the body.



Infant Quality Tip Dressing Infants for Summer Heat

Once it gets over 80 degrees, the body has a harder time cooling off - especially for babies. Babies cannot sweat, which is your body's way of cooling itself off, so they can often suffer heat stroke much quicker than an older child or adult. Plus, babies can get dehydrated faster, too. Dress infants in loose-fitting, lightweight clothes, preferably made from a natural fiber. In addition, don't overdress your newborn for the car. Since we keep babies rather tight in the car seat and rear-facing, it can get quite hot, so keep them dressed in one light layer only, no hats or feet covered - babies transfer some heat out to cool themselves from their feet and head.



Special Needs Conference - Recap

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the Child Care Education and Training Program in Montgomery held their Special Needs Conference. Shannon Cook, from Dothan,



Shannon Cook & Angela Bailey

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

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.



Many Thanks!

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!

Update for Directors

Every other month, the FGC Training Department 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.

Wednesday, July 31st from 12 pm - 12:30 pm

Talking with Parents About Play and Learning

Wednesday, September 4th from 12 pm - 12:30 pm

Child Care Staff Evaluations

This quarter, both Dothan and Montgomery locations will be offering 2-hour trainings for directors. These trainings are the **Especially for Directors** series and are held for Owners, Directors and Assistant Directors of day care centers.

Please check your calendars for the dates, times and locations of these upcoming director's trainings.

DATES OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

July 4, 2019 - Independence Day

September 2, 2019 - Labor Day

CDA Update

The CDA Competency Standards are the national standards used to evaluate a caregiver's performance with children and families during the CDA assessment process. The Competency Standards are divided into six Competency Goals which are statements of a general purpose or goal for caregiver behavior.

These six goals apply to all child care settings.

Goal 1 - To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment

Goal 2 - To advance physical and intellectual competence

Goal 3 - To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance

Goal 4 - To establish positive and productive relationships with families

Goal 5 - To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participants needs

Goal 6 - To maintain a commitment to professionalism

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

Toddler Quality Tip

Less Tantrums and More Cooperation
Sounds like a dream, doesn't it? According to the article, Your Competent Toddler, toddlers will tantrum less and cooperate more when 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 aha.parenting.com and search Your Competent Toddler.



Alabama Early Learning Guidelines

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!!!



Montgomery

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



Dothan

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