In the article, Teachable Transitions, by Rae Pice she emphasizes that transitions should be handled in creative ways because no matter how you structure your day, transitions are an inevitable part of working with young children. There is always somewhere to get to next, another activity to begin, or an activity to clean up.

One benefit of planning transitions is to create another opportunity for learning. Children learn to bring satisfactory closure to activities through successful transitions. It teaches them to move easily into and out of group situations and practice following directions. These dynamics naturally entail cooperation and consideration, which are important social-emotional skills. Transitions can also be linked to curriculum content, adding continuity to your day and the repetition necessary for young children to “cement” the information acquired.

Additionally, transitions offer opportunities for problem solving, creativity, and self-expression. We can’t ever have too much of those; they are among the skills we can be certain kids will need in this rapidly-changing world.

Transitions usually require moving from one place to another. Because movement and music are natural partners they are perfect instruments for transition times. Children love movement and music which helps turn transitions into pleasurable experiences, even something to look forward to. Movement activities, songs, and fingerplays provide focus for the children during transitions, hold the attention of waiting kids, and are easily tied to curriculum content. For example, if you’ve been studying animals, you can invite the children to move like some of the quietest ones: cats, turtles, or rabbits. If you’ve been studying the weather, you can ask them to transition as though they were clouds or a gentle breeze. Moreover, transitions present chances for further experience with movement and music - two subjects that children love, need, and you.

Transitions to the classroom can be especially chaotic. You’ll want to give the children a reason to manage themselves. A song can make leaving the room fun! The following is sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

We’re going out the door.
Hi-ho, outside we go.
We’re going out the door.

We’re walking down the hall.
Hi-ho, outside we go.
We’re walking down the hall.

As you can see, it takes only a little bit of imagination and intentionality to create tranquil, teachable transitions. Yes, it may take a bit of time and planning in the beginning, but in the long run it will be worth it for both the children and you.

The Child Care Education and Training Programs in Dothan and Montgomery are excited to announce that Deborah Stewart of Noblesville, Indiana will be our special speaker for Sensational Saturday 2019. Dothan’s Sensational Saturday is scheduled for January 26, 2019 and Montgomery’s is scheduled for February 23, 2019. Deborah holds an associate degree and a master degree in Early Childhood Education. Deborah is often a guest moderator of The Bam Radio show and is the Early Learning Expert for Indiana Fox 59 Morning News. She is the author of the book “Ready for Kindergarten” which can be viewed on Amazon and has published over 50 simple songs for young children which are available on her Teach Preschool Blog.

Deborah firmly believes that young children learn and develop best through play. In this way they can experience their world, work out their social and emotional well-being, develop and master life-long skills, and build a confident sense of self, school. Learning through play also supports them in becoming part of a community. Children who learn through play have higher self-esteem.

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This class is awesome. A lot of information to take back to your daycare. I also see an outreach venue for both young children and parents. This has made me want to learn more. Great class!! The AELG course was a very informative class for me. I will be able to help my students and my students. This made me want to learn more. Great class!!

Montgomery had 26 participants to complete the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course. They will receive a credential from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education Department. Please check your calendars for the dates, times and locations of these upcoming trainings. For the Montgomery area, please call 334-712-7777, ext. 227. For the Montgomery area, please call 334-270-4100 ext. 235. Please ask to speak with the FGC Online Training Specialist, or, if necessary, please leave your name, phone number and a brief message and your call will be returned.

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 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.

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 with the FGC Online Training Specialist, or, if necessary, please leave your name, phone number and a brief message and your call will be returned.

Registration For Classes

Registration Procedures
• Registration is on a first come, first served basis.
• To attend any class, please call the number listed below and on the calendar grid.
• Cancellations are accepted prior to the training. Please remember that if you are not able to attend, by calling you will allow another person to use that slot.

Registration Guidelines
• To register in Montgomery, please call 334-270-4100 ext. 235 or 1-800-498-5697.
• To register in Dothan, please call 334-712-7777, ext. 227 or 1-800-290.0953.

• At either location, you may leave a voice mail message after office hours on the appropriate extension.
• Walk-ins will be accommodated as seating allows.

Registration Notes
Since child care is not available, please make other arrangements for your children.

D A T E S O U R C A L E S W I L L B E C L O S E D

October 8, 2018 - Columbus Day
November 12, 2018 - Veteran’s Day
November 12, 2018 - Thanksgiving
December 25, 2018 - Christmas

Online ECE Courses - APT

Alabama Public Television offers the following online courses through their Early Childhood Education Department. For additional information, please contact Lisa Nunn, lnunn@aptv.org, 1-800-239-5235.

- CDA Credential - An Introduction
  October 22 - December 5, 2018
- APT Early Learning Guidelines
  October 22 - December 3, 2018
- STEM for the Preschool Classroom
  October 29 - December 10, 2018
- Addressing Homelessness: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator
  Ongoing course self-enrollment - ON DEMAND CLASS