

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS



A publication of Family Guidance Center of Alabama



October, November & December 2026

Managing Your Classroom

Classroom management is a key factor in assisting children to:

- ♦ develop into independent individuals
- ♦ control their emotions
- ♦ make positive decisions
- ♦ learn appropriate social skills
- ♦ create positive interactions with others

Classroom management is an on-going process

Classroom management consists of:

Safety and Supervision

- ♦ Active supervision
- ♦ Name-to-face transitions
- ♦ Strict ratios

Environment and Routines

- ♦ Predictable routines: Consistent daily schedules help young children feel safe and reduce stress.
- ♦ Calming spaces: avoiding sensory overload from high noise or bright lights.
- ♦ Individualized design: Materials and traffic patterns match the varying mobility and developmental stages.

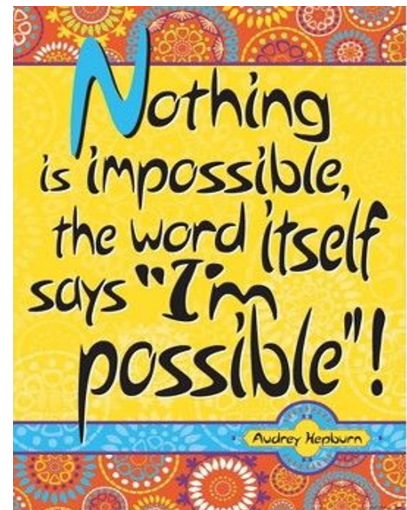
Behavior and Relationships

- ♦ Responsive interactions: Teachers build trust through gentle caregiving routines and positive feedback during play.
- ♦ Emotional support: Help children identify simple feelings and practice early self-regulation skills.
- ♦ Family partnerships.

What do children need?

- ♦ An environment that allows them to keep their hands and bodies busy while their brain makes connections.
 - Provide as many concrete hands-on experiences as possible.
- ♦ Repetition! Repetition! Repetition! This makes stronger connections in their brain.
- ♦ Flexibility
- ♦ Hands-on materials and activities
- ♦ Interactions
- ♦ Communication
- ♦ Engagement

Remember, the more opportunities you present for children to repeat, engage, interact, and communicate; the more they will learn.



RESOURCE LIBRARY

We invite you to visit our resource libraries in Dothan and Montgomery for lots of great ideas and materials to enhance your learning environment.

Each library offers a selection of books, learning materials, puppets, kits and a wide assortment of die cuts. Best of all, it is a free resource for you. We provide basic colors of construction paper for die cuts and lamination. For check out procedures and die cut orders, please contact the resource librarian in your area. Be sure to sign up for the library newsletters emailed each month.



Remember, we have die cuts for FALL and upcoming special days!



CONTACT INFORMATION

Dothan

Library hours: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday (evening appointments available)

Resource Specialist:

Michelle Woodham (334) 712-7777 ext. 1713
Email: michelle.woodham1@dhr.alabama.gov

Montgomery

Library hours: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday (evening appointments available)

Resource Specialist:

Lisa Kirkland (334) 270-4100 ext. 1102
Email: lisa.kirkland@dhr.alabama.gov

FALL SENSES SCAVENGER HUNT

TASTE

- ___ apples
- ___ pumpkin
- ___ apple cider
- ___ hot chocolate
- ___ marshmallows

SEE

- ___ spider web
- ___ clouds
- ___ leaves
- ___ squirrels
- ___ acorns

HEAR

- ___ crunching leaves
- ___ wind blowing
- ___ birds chirping
- ___ apples crunching
- ___ tractors

SMELL

- ___ apples
- ___ pumpkin spice
- ___ cinnamon
- ___ pine trees
- ___ vanilla

Always check for allergies
before engaging in sensory
activities.

TOUCH

- ___ tree bark
- ___ leaves
- ___ pine cone
- ___ soft sweater
- ___ pumpkin

MOVEMENT

- ___ pumpkin rolling
- ___ pretend apple picking
- ___ move like a fall animal
- ___ move like the wind
- ___ leaf or hay bale jumping



Fire Safety

To keep children safe from fires, maintain clear evacuation routes, have working smoke alarms, and practice emergency plans.

Stop, Drop, and Roll: Teach children to drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.

Stay Low: Show kids how to crawl low under smoke.

Touch Doors: Practice feeling a door with the back of a hand before opening it. If it is hot, use a secondary exit.

Meet Outside: Designate an outdoor assembly spot and emphasize that nobody should ever re-enter a burning building.

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/at-risk-audiences/children/>



ALABAMA PUBLIC TELEVISION'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ONLINE FALL TRAINING COURSES



Registration for APT's fall facilitated classes opens Monday, September 14, 2026.
October 5 – November 22, 2026 - Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Online
October 5 – October 26, 2026 - Every Child is Welcome: Fostering Inclusion in the Child Care Setting - CCDF 15



APT's On-Demand Course Catalog

APT's On-Demand Trainings - APT's on-demand 2-hour trainings are always available.
Scan the QR code or visit aptv.org/on-demand to access APT's on-demand self-enrollment.



For more APT training opportunities see the Dothan and Montgomery training calendars.

Contact information for the mental health consultant for each region:

Dothan: Charnita Ponder, LMSW, cponder@familyguidancecenter.org, 334-746-1790

(Butler, Crenshaw, Pike, Covington, Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Geneva, and Houston.)

Montgomery: Debbie Bailey, dbailey@familyguidancecenter.org, 334-746-1005
(Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Bullock, Macon, Lee and Russell)

For more information about the program visit: <https://www.first5alabama.org/>



First 5 Alabama®
Alabama Association for Infant and
Early Childhood Mental Health

Looking for opportunities to increase the quality of care for your infants and toddlers?
Please contact the specialist in your area:

DOTHAN region: Barbara Culver

MONTGOMERY region: Adrienne Royster

Email: ITSNnetworking@ua.edu

<https://al-itsnetwork.org/itsn-specialists/>



Interested in obtaining your Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)?
For information, visit the Council for Professional Recognition
at <https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/>





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www.familyguidancecenter.org



CALENDARS

RED - Montgomery office IN PERSON classes
BLUE - Dothan office IN PERSON classes

GREEN - ZOOM classes
***Register with the HOST office

Please see the calendar insert for the following:

- ♦ Registration procedures
- ♦ Classes specifically for directors/administration
- ♦ Trainings in person and via ZOOM



Our office will be closed the following dates:

October 12, 2026
November 11, 2026
November 26, 2026
December 25, 2026



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

T.E.A.C.H. ALABAMA EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A project of Alabama Partnership for Children, helps early learning professionals increase their level of education and effectiveness in the classroom by making the educational process more attainable and affordable. For more information, contact Alabama Partnership for Children at 334-271-0304. or visit <https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org/our-work/t-e-a-c-h/>

LEADERSHIP IN CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarships are funded by the Department of Human Resources. For additional information, contact Virginia Frazer, Leadership in Child Care Scholarship program assistant, at (334) 293-4552 or by email at virginia.frazer@accs.edu.
<https://www.accs.edu/community-college/leadership-in-childcare/>

