



smartSTART
Alabama Partnership for Children



Alabama Partnership for Children

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APC Vision

"Every Alabama Child Will Have the Opportunity to Succeed in Life".

APC Mission

To work in partnership with other public and private entities to maintain an effective state and local system of resources and support that enables parents, families, and others who care for young children to ensure that they are healthy, protected, nurtured, and offered every opportunity to succeed in life.

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ECCS Initiative Grantee Meeting Update

From the AL Department of Public Health, Sharis LeMay, Coordinator of The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) initiative:

The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) initiative Grantee Meeting, "Building Comprehensive Systems and Strengthening Families through Partnerships with a Focus on Family Support and Early Childhood Mental Health" was held March 12 -14, 2008, in Baltimore. The meeting objectives were:

- To determine how meeting participants and their many other partners can best work together at the federal, state, and community level to develop partnerships that help build and sustain comprehensive early childhood systems that best meet the needs of all children and families.
- To share promising practices and ideas for strengthening partnerships across health, mental health (including substance abuse), family support (including child welfare), parenting education, and early childhood education.
- To obtain input from state and community partners on how Federal agencies can remove obstacles to collaboration and foster partnerships that help to build stronger, more comprehensive systems, and improve outcomes for children and families.

The Alabama Partners' Team was made up of the following participants and their agencies/organizations as required through the grant: Debbie Thomas, Child Care Services, Alabama Department of Human Resources; Steve Lafreniere, Children's Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Linda Hampton, State Head Start Collaboration Office, Alabama Department of Children's Affairs; Marian Loftin, Children's Trust Fund and the Alabama Department of Abuse and Neglect Prevention; Gail Piggott, Alabama Partnership for Children; and Sharis LeMay, Family Health Services/ECCS Grant, Alabama Department of Public Health. Robert Beshear, MD, a Montgomery pediatrician and 2008 recipient of the Ray E. Helfer, MD Award from the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, also participated in the team meetings.

The ECCS Meeting provided sessions which offered information from national agencies/organizations to assist the state teams to better focus on collaborative efforts to enhance the Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan. Session topics included:

- Building Better Systems for Vulnerable Children and Families**
- Bringing It Home: Strengthening Families, Centers, and Programs**
- Building Bridges Between Services and Systems in Early Childhood Mental Health**
- Focusing on Prevention to Build Better Systems and Strengthen Families**
- Collaborative Efforts Between ECCS and CBCAP Grantees**
- Child Care Health Consultants: An Integral Part of Your Family Support System**
- Implementing Strengthening Families**
- Transforming State Mental Health Systems for Young Children**

During the State Team work sessions, team members were asked to discuss where they are and where they need to go in creating a comprehensive early childhood system, identifying opportunities for moving forward on systems building and what needs to happen at the Federal/National, State, and Community Levels in order to be successful at taking advantage of those opportunities. The results of these work sessions were shared with the Federal Partners and "next steps" were identified for the State Teams. Our team determined that priorities for the coming year should be Communications – building broader understanding across the state about the state plan and its components and continuing to specify and quantify specific actions that will move the indicators for better child outcomes in the right direction. The Results Based Accountability Approach will be used to help us evaluate what has been accomplished and what our next concentrated efforts will be.

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Joining Hands for Week of the Young Child

The Alabama Partnership for Children is coordinating the fourth annual *Joining Hands for Week of the Young Child* event that is designed to bring attention to the needs of young children ages birth to five to local and state decision makers during the *Week of the Young Child*. We have previously asked child advocates across the state to have anyone that works with young children collect handprints that the children have traced and decorated. These handprints will be delivered to the State House in Montgomery, AL to be posted in Alabama Legislative offices on Wednesday, April 16th, and we hope all advocates of young children will join us. Below is the agenda for the day. For more information about this event or to sign up to attend please contact Michele Piggott toll-free at (866) 711-4025 or by emailing mpiggott@SmartStartAlabama.org.

Joining Hands for Week of the Young Child

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Business Center of Alabama
2 North Jackson Street
Montgomery, AL

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. General information and fact sheets will be distributed

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Leave for State House to deliver handprints

12:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Reconvene at the Business Center of Alabama for wrap up

Please RSVP by April 10th by contacting Michele Piggott toll-free at (866) 711-4025 or by emailing mpiggott@SmartStartAlabama.org.

Tips for Celebrating Week of the Young Child

Participate in *Week of the Young Child* April 13th through 19th, to

- honor children birth through age five;
- acknowledge the needs of young children;
- promote the high-quality early learning experiences all children deserve; and
- honor those who help children make the most of their high-quality early learning experiences.

Tips to Help You Join in the Celebration

Celebrate young children. The following are easy ways to celebrate young children that are special to you:

- Visit the park together.
- Look through family pictures together and share special stories.
- Spend the day playing games together.
- Read favorite books together and visit the library.

Thank those who care for young children. Write a thank you note to someone who cares for and helps young children make the most of the opportunities in their early learning years.

Be a volunteer. Volunteer your time with an organization in your area concentrating on young children and families.

Connect with the community. Select an issue in your community important to young children and contact local officials to ask how to get involved.

Encourage others. Encourage neighbors, co-workers, local officials, friends and family members to consider getting involved in local *Week of the Young Child* celebrations.

Support local celebrations. Lend support to local *Week of the Young Child* celebrations.



Smart Start Parenting Kit Check Presentation

The Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention also known as the Children's Trust Fund and the Alabama Partnership for Children are appreciative to Representative John Knight, Chair of Government Appropriations, for making time in his schedule to participate in a "check presentation" photo. The Children's Trust Fund awarded funding to the Alabama Partnership for Children's Smart Start Parenting Kit project--a comprehensive set of tools and resources related to a child's healthy development distributed to parents of newborns primarily through birthing hospitals. The Parenting Kit project was created for statewide implementation yet a lack of funding has prevented that. We always take advantage of the opportunity to highlight the success of this project, the children and families in the local communities that benefit from the Parenting Kit and the Children's Trust Fund's supports of this project.



Pictured from left: Gail Piggott, Executive Director; Representative John Knight; Aretha Bracy, Parenting Kit Director; Marian Loftin, Director of the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.



STATE OF ALABAMA INCOME TAX CHECK OFF

Every year we go through the motions. Either on our own or through a professional service, we file our state income tax. It is always exciting to see ourselves coming out with a little extra instead of owing some back, but **your return may be more powerful than you realize.**

With over 80% of Children's Trust Fund dollars going directly to fund programs that protect our children from abuse and neglect, your refund can become an investment in the children of this state. **This year consider donating all or part of your State of Alabama tax refund to the "Child Abuse Trust Fund".** This tax deductible donation can be done by simply attaching Schedule DC to your state submission and indicating the "Child Abuse Trust Fund" (1d) as your preference.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN OF ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
(Children's Trust Fund)

www.ctf.alabama.gov 334-242-5710

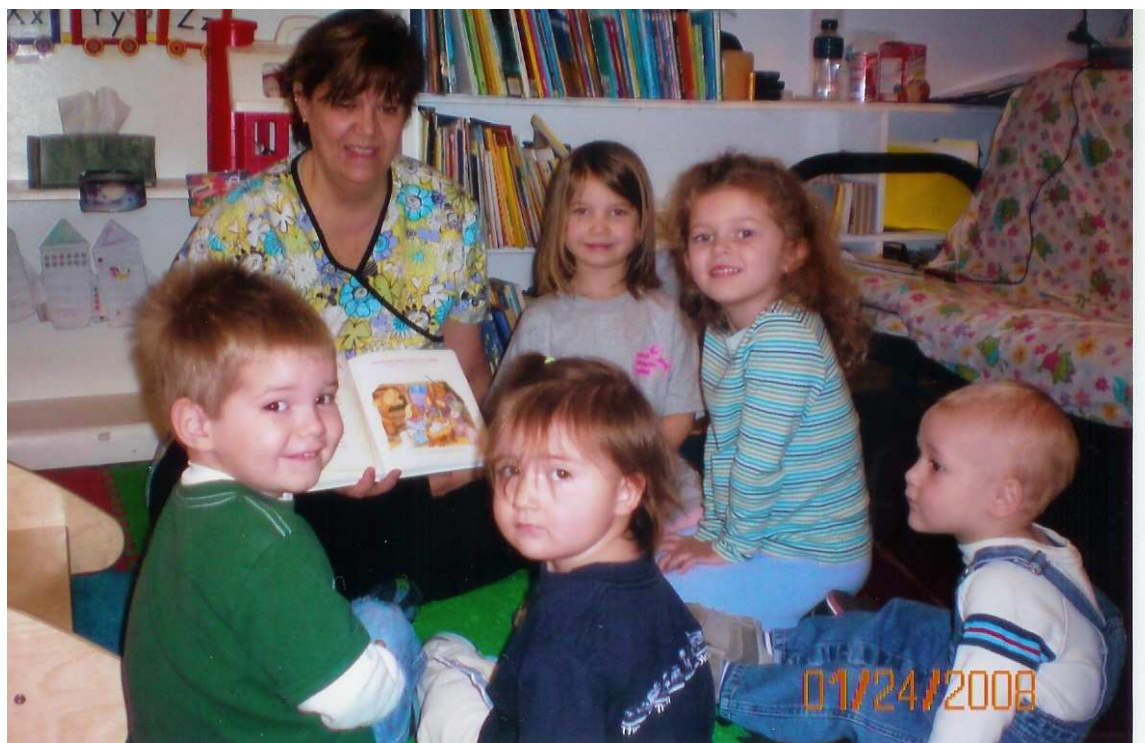
T.E.A.C.H. Recipient Earns National Award

Kay Gillock, family home provider and owner of Gillock Gang's Home Child Care in Opelika, was selected to receive the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL® National Child Care Teacher Award. Ms. Gillock was chosen for her commitment to maintaining high quality child care practices and dedication to the children she teaches. This year, child care teachers from 36 states participated in the program. As part of the application process, applicants designed an enhancement project that illustrated the educational, social and emotional benefits for the children in their care. Ms. Gillock's award-winning project, "Center of Activity." will enhance the art and reading centers in her child care home. The grant will allow her to purchase a double-sided folding easel with spill-proof containers. She will also purchase a child-sized sofa and chairs for the reading center and table with chairs for other activities.

Kay Gillock will receive a \$1,000 award on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at a special ceremony in King of Prussia, PA, located in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. As one of the top ten scorers, Gillock is eligible to answer an additional essay question to qualify for the Foundation's Helene Marks Award as National Child Care Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year recipient – announced at the luncheon held the day of the awards ceremony – receives an additional \$1,000 award and a \$500 shopping spree, courtesy of Bloomingdale's in the King of Prussia Mall.

Allan Miller, Executive Director of the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation (TLLCCF) stated, "Early care and education teachers do more than just watch children when their parents are at work. They are helping to prepare them to enter school ready to learn; they are laying the foundation for the children to be successful in school." He goes on to say "Our focus is to improve the quality of programs that care for and educate children from birth through age five and enlist and enlighten others to do the same. The Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL® National Child Care Teacher Awards allows us the opportunity to personally thank those who are dedicated to teaching our children – our future."

For additional information about the Foundation or the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL® National Child Care Teacher Awards, please visit www.childcareabc.org or www.tlccf.org.



Ms. Gillock reads to the children that attend Gillock Gang's Home Child Care in Opelika, AL

Dr. James Robert (Bob) Beshear Receives Ray E. Helfer, M.D. Award

The National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds and The American Academy of Pediatrics selected Dr. Beshear for the nationally recognized *Ray E. Helfer, M.D. Award*. This distinguished award is given annually to a pediatrician who has made a demonstrated contribution to preventing child abuse before it occurs and is involved with activities related to the work of Children’s Trust Funds.



Dr. Robert (Bob) Beshear

The National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds and The American Academy of Pediatrics selected Dr. Beshear for the nationally recognized *Ray E. Helfer, M.D. Award*. This distinguished award is given annually to a

pediatrician who has made a demonstrated contribution to preventing child abuse before it occurs and is involved with activities related to the work of Children’s Trust Funds.

Pediatrician Bob Beshear, Past President of the American Academy of Pediatrics Alabama Chapter, has devoted over 40 years linking parents, teachers, childcare providers, policy makers, the medical community, the media and others to provide the kind of environments that allow children to grow up in a safe, nurturing home enabling them to succeed in life. Dr. Beshear received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and serves as advisor to the Governor of Kentucky on Children and Health Issues. He is a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine (1967) and completed his pediatric residency at Duke Medical Center. He is the founder of the Gift of Life Foundation, which was created in 1988 to address the high infant mortality rate in Alabama. Dr. Beshear chaired the Children’s Health Component, a process that brought about the state’s “Zero to Five” Early Childhood Initiative, through the Alabama Partnership for Children (APC).

The late Ray Helfer, M.D., is considered the “father” of children’s trust and prevention funds, due to his concept that special funds could be used to ensure that our nation’s children grow up nurtured, safe and free from abuse and neglect. Dr. Helfer’s lifelong dedication to children serves as a model for all citizens. The national *Ray E. Helfer, M.D. Award* was established in his honor and will be presented in Baltimore mid-March to Dr. Beshear, a distinguished pediatrician, for his contribution to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Nomination for this nationally recognized award was made by the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention which manages the Children’s Trust Fund of Alabama. Children’s Trust Fund is also designated as the Alabama Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse of America. Alabama’s Children Trust Fund was the 10th in nation to be established by the State legislature in 1983, and is celebrating its 25th Year. Today, every state in the nation has an established Children’s Trust Fund.

Upcoming Events Throughout the State

2008 UnitedVOICES Meeting Schedule	
Every other Tuesday at 9:00AM during the Legislative Session	
Meetings are held at River Region United Way, 532 South Perry Street, Montgomery, AL	
AGENCY/SPEAKER	
April 8th -	Representative Patricia Todd will discuss the Poverty Task Force.
April 22nd -	Danielle Lipow, representing the Alabama Youth Justice Coalition, will discuss the juvenile justice landscape.
May 6th -	Mark Berte—from the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform, will discuss the constitutional reform efforts.
May 20th -	TBA

- ✓ **April 3rd – 4th** – Office of School Readiness Pre-K Conference in Montgomery, AL at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center. For more information visit www.dca.state.al.us/OSR/07Conference/ConferencePreregistrationProgram.pdf.
- ✓ **April 13th – 19th** – Week of the Young Child
- ✓ **April 16th** – Joining Hands for Week of the Young Child – For more information contact Michele Piggott at the APC by calling (866) 711-4025 or by emailing mpiggott@smartstartalabama.org
- ✓ **April 24th** – DCA Children’s Policy Council Conference in Montgomery, AL.
- ✓ **May 6th – 9th** – Smart Start North Carolina Conference in Greensboro, NC. For more information visit www.ncsmartstart.org
- ✓ **May 9th** – Provider Appreciation Day
- ✓ **July 17th - 19th** - AALECE Conference in Gulf Shores, AL. For more information visit www.childcarealabama.org
- ✓ **November 14th - 15th** FOCAL annual conference in Montgomery, AL. For more information visit FOCAL’s website at www.focalfocal.org
- ✓ **November 19th - 21st** EI & Pre-school conference in Mobile, AL
- ✓ **The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention - Children’s Trust Fund will host RFP Training Meetings across the state as follows:**

<p><u>April 7, 2008 – Tuscaloosa</u> Child Development Resources University of Alabama 651 Fifth Avenue East Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Time: 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>April 8, 2008 – Gadsden</u> Gadsden State Community College (East Broad Street Campus) Joe Ford Building - Room 210 405 Korner Street Gadsden, AL 35903 Time: 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p><u>April 9, 2008 – Opelika</u> Child Care Resource Center 2015 Gateway Drive Opelika, AL 36801 Time: 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>April 9, 2008 – Decatur</u> Calhoun Community College APC Lecture Hall, Room # TBA 6250 U.S. Highway 31 North Decatur, AL 35671 Time: 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p><u>April 10, 2008 – Dothan</u> Girls Inc. 785 South Foster Street Dothan, AL 36301 Time: 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>April 11, 2008 – Mobile</u> Mobile Public Library West Regional Branch 5555 Grelot Road Mobile, AL 36609 Time: 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p><u>April 11, 2008 – Montgomery</u> AUM School of Nursing Moore Hall, Room 302 Montgomery, AL 36117 Time: 9:00 a.m.</p>	

The **Alabama Partnership for Children** is a state level non-profit agency supported by major child and family-serving state agencies working in partnership with the private sector to address the concerns of children from birth to five in Alabama. Created to develop, design and implement a unified approach for improving outcomes of children from birth to age five, this public/private partnership is a distinct initiative to develop and strengthen systems, forge strategies and increase public awareness for all early care and education in Alabama. The Partnership is governed by a board of directors appointed by the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate Pro Tempore, with mandated positions for business, service providers, parents, education, faith-based child care, and community-based non-profits. State agency heads also serve as ex-officio board members, and advisory committees guide specific projects. Kidstuff® is the all encompassing identity and trademark for all projects of the Alabama Partnership for Children. **Mission Statement:** *To work in partnership with other public and private entities to maintain an effective state and local system of resources and support that enables parents, families, and others who care for young children to ensure that they are healthy, protected, nurtured, and offered every opportunity to succeed in life.*

For more information about the APC and its current programs please visit our website at www.KidstuffAlabama.org

Phone: (334) 271-0304 **Toll-free:** 1-866-711-4025 (for Zero to Five) **Fax:** (334) 271-0315

Alabama Partnership for Children – Donation Form

I would like to make a tax deductible donation in support of the Alabama Partnership for Children and its vision “*Every Alabama Child Will Have the Opportunity to Succeed in Life*”.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed, payable to the Alabama Partnership for Children.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish this gift to be recognized:

in honor of _____

in memory of _____

Please notify the following of my donation or of an anonymous donation:

Name _____

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- My company’s matching gift form is enclosed so my gift can be multiplied.
- Please send me information about APC Corporate Champions and APC Partners and other ways my company or group might support the Alabama Partnership for Children.
- Please add my email address to the APC’s update list so that I can receive the monthly newsletter about the APC and its programs.
- I prefer for my donation to remain anonymous.

All donations are recognized in our newsletter, and donations of \$100 or more are recognized in the APC annual report (unless you request that it remain anonymous). Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were provided for this donation.

Please send form and donation to:

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