



Alabama Early Learning Guidelines

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) are a guide to the building blocks necessary to prepare each child for future success in school and life and they are intended to be inclusive of all children. The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines are a result of a collaboration between the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and various stakeholders across the state. The AELG consist of nine modules:

Session 1: Orientation

The Orientation session will involve learners in activities to become familiar with the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Course and basic child development concepts. The session will explain the origin and the purpose of the AELG, list the sessions included in the AELG, and the learners will develop a basic understanding of concepts and terminology related to child development.

Session 2: Observation

The Observation session will involve learners in activities to understand the critical importance of child observations. The session will identify the purpose of intentional child observations, identify children's learning styles, demonstrate techniques of observing and reflecting on children, and demonstrate how to complete a developmental checklist.

Session 3: The Role of the Parent and Caregiver

The Role of the Parent and Caregiver session will involve learners in activities to help facilitate positive relationships between parents and caregivers. The session will help learners become familiar with ways to help start, build, and maintain positive relationships when children are in out-of-home care and learn how to set a positive tone for a partnership between parents and caregivers.

Session 4: Self-concept and Emotional Development

The Self-concept and Emotional Development session will engage learners in activities that can be used to help children develop a positive picture of self and understand and express their own emotions. The session will help the learners use the AELG to help children build self-esteem, identify and name their emotions, and regulate their behavior.

Session 5: Social Development

The Social Development session will engage learners in activities that can be used to help children enhance their social interaction skills and will help learners identify strategies to help children develop trusting relationships with nurturing adults, demonstrate caring and cooperation, and try out roles and relationships through imitations.

Session 6: Language and Literacy

The Language and Literacy session will involve learners in activities to stimulate and enhance children's communication skills. The session will engage learners in using the AELG to understand verbal and non-verbal communication, explore various methods of communication, identify with home languages, and become familiar with ages and stages of language and literacy development.

Session 7: Physical Development

The Physical Development session will involve learners in learning to stimulate and enhance children's physical skills necessary to move and do in the world. The session will engage learners in becoming familiar with how children develop gross and fine motor skills and becoming familiar with the ways to enhance self help skills.

Session 8: Cognitive Development

The Cognitive Development session will engage learners in activities that can be used to help children build and expand concepts and develop problem-solving abilities. The session will encourage learners to gain an understanding of basic concepts and relationships, apply knowledge to new situations, and solve problems.

Session 9: Putting It All Together for Alabama's Children

The Putting It All Together for Alabama's Children session will engage learners in activities that encourage the use of available resources for caregivers, families and children. The session will help learners provide additional resources and materials to parents to promote high quality care and education, pull together information, and pull together information from previous AELG sessions.

Please note:

In order to attend Sessions 2-9, you MUST first attend the orientation session. Upon the completion of each session, you will receive a certificate. Upon completion of all 9 sessions, a certificate will be mailed from the Alabama Department of Human Resources.