

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 3

APRIL 2009

## ALABAMA FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

President: Amy Waine

205- 616-9772

Vice President: Claudia Keith

205-680-6701

Secretary: Misty Chambers

256-796-3521

Treasurer: Marg Peterson

256-784-6262

Membership Coordinator: Katrina Lister

256-837-0858

Newsletter and Correspondence- Fran Clampitt

256-337-6067

Assistant Newsletter Editor- Brenda Blansit

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

With so many providers concerned about economic woes, politics, and family issues it is difficult to keep up with what is happening to family childcare in the state of Alabama. I encourage licensed childcare providers in Alabama to get informed, stay focused and actively participate in the decisions being made about childcare, families, and the children we serve.

To be informed about childcare issues gives you the opportunity to know what is going to happen to your business before it happens. To stay focused about childcare gives you several opportunities to express your concerns about childcare to your senator, representatives, colleagues, and parents. Senators and Representatives **WILL READ** your concerns on a **HAND WRITTEN NOTE**. To actively participate in childcare issues involves –**YOU!** I am asking you to find out what will be in the ARC (Unlicensed Care) Report by contacting the Alabama Child Care Alliance. The proposed release date will be April 21<sup>st</sup>, and a release planning and training session was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, in Montgomery. ALFCCA had representatives from our association at the release planning and training session and will have a report for its members as soon as the information comes available. Please contact the following people for more information:

Deborah Thomas- [deborahathom@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahathom@yahoo.com)

Tee Barnes- [teebarnes@bellsouth.net](mailto:teebarnes@bellsouth.net)

Fran Clampitt- [franclampitt@knology.net](mailto:franclampitt@knology.net)

Amy Waine- [bamswaine@bellsouth.net](mailto:bamswaine@bellsouth.net)

### **YOUR CONGRESSMAN**

The opportunities are yours for the taking! Please make an effort to know, express, and participate in childcare issues that affect your business, families and the children of Alabama!

*Amy Waine*

**ALFCCA President**

## CONFERENCES :



### Family child care partnership

7<sup>th</sup> annual  
"focus on family child care  
conference"

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Auburn, Alabama

For more information  
Contact: Peter Miller  
Conference Coordinator  
1-877-892-FCCP

Or

Go to [www.humsci.auburn.edu/fccp](http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/fccp)

For Conference Details

The Alabama Family Child Care Association will be having a Meet and Greet Friday evening for all family childcare providers.

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Place: Student Activities Center on the Auburn Campus

RSVP 1-877-892-FCCP

Come and join in fellowship with other providers from across the state.

Meet our new President Marg Peterson and new Treasurer Wendy Howell.

# ALFCCA

## NEW MEMBERS:

BETTY CHESSER -SHELBY COUNTY  
BETH RUSSELL- SHELBY COUNTY  
MISTY CHAMBERS- CULLMAN COUNTY  
CLAIRE PHILADELPHIA- MADISON COUNTY  
JO ELLEN MILLER- MADISON COUNTY  
JACQUELINE SIMS- BIBB COUNTY  
BRENDA BLANSIT- DEKALB COUNTY  
BELINDA DOWELL- LEE COUNTY

## RENEWED MEMBERS:

LILLIE HOOD- MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
BRENAE DUNAWAY- SHELBY COUNTY  
DIANNE FRANKLIN- SHELBY COUNTY  
BARBARA GASS- SHELBY COUNTY  
OUIDA GORDON- SHELBY COUNTY  
CINDY KELLY- SHELBY COUNTY  
ELAINE MILLER-AUBURN FCCP  
PETER MILLER- AUBURN FCCP  
BETH RUSSELL- SHELBY COUNTY  
EARLENE MITCHELL- MADISON COUNTY  
BRENDA KOHR- MADISON COUNTY  
AMY SIVLEY- CULLMAN COUNTY  
WENDY HOWELL- MOBILE COUNTY

THE ALFCCA WELCOMES ALL  
NEW MEMBERS  
AND APPRECIATES ALL THE  
SUPPORT OF OUR RENEWED  
MEMBERS!!!!



## **PROVIDER TIPS:**

A GREAT SPRING ACTIVITY IS TO COLOR MATCH PLASTIC EASTER EGGS TO LITTLE CHICKS MADE FROM POM-POMS AND WIGGLY EGGS. HAVE CHILDREN MATCH THE CHICK TO THE CORRECT COLOR EGG.

USE SMALL KETCHUP BOTTLE WITH THE SQIRT TOPS TO HOLD PAINT AND GLUE. IT MAKES FILLING UP THE CHILDREN'S GLUE BOTTLES A BREEZE!!

SPRAY PAM ON THE INSIDE OF THE ORANGE TOPS OF GLUE BOTTLES. THIS HELPS WITH THE GLUE CLOGGING UP.

MARKER SAVER: WHEN YOUR LITTLE ONES DO NOT PUT THE TOPS ON TIGHT YOUR MARKERS HAVE A TENDECY TO DRY OUT. JUST PUT THE MARKERS IN A CUP OF WATER FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THEY SHOULD WET BACK UP.

HULA- HOOP LEARNING CENTER: TURN ANY FLOOR INTO A LEARNING CENTER BY PUTTING A HULA-HOOP ON THE FLOOR AND PLACE A FOLDER OR GAME ACTIVITY IN THE CIRCLE. THE HULA-HOOP PROVIDES A WELL-DEFINED WORK PLACE, WHICH CAN BE EASILY MOVED AROUND.

### **BLOCK CENTER ACTIVITY:**

START COLLECTING CARDBOARD TUBES OF DIFFERENT SIZES AND BALLS TO HAVE A FUN AND ADD A SCIENCE ELEMENT TO THE CHILD'S PLAY. ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN TO PLACE BLOCKS UNDER THE TUBES AND VARY THE TUBES AT DIFFERENT ANGLES AS THEY SEND THE BALLS THROUGH THEM.

Linda Bille- 3 and 4 years old, Rivera United Methodist Preschool, Redondo Beach, CA.

TO STORE YOUR PUPPETS USE SHOES RACKS THAT ARE MADE TO SIT ON THE FLOOR.

PROVIDER WEBSITES:

[www.acainc.org](http://www.acainc.org) - ACA Childcare Insurance

[www.ctw.org](http://www.ctw.org)- Sesame Street Central

[www.childfun.com](http://www.childfun.com)

[www.theeducationcenter.com](http://www.theeducationcenter.com) - Mailbox Magazine

[www.funsteps.com](http://www.funsteps.com)- Curriculum Materials

**PROVIDER ALERT:**

THROW AWAY ALL OUTDATED PANCAKE MIX, BISQUICK, BROWNIE MIXES AND ETC. THAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HOME. THESE MIXES HAVE YEAST AND OVER TIME THEY DEVELOPE TOXIC SPORES THAT CAN CAUSE A CHILD TO LOSE THE ABILITY TO BREATHE.

Parenting Early Years:  
February 2009 Edition  
A New Sid's Fighter

Using a fan in your baby's room can slash the risk of sudden infant death syndrome by more than 70% reports a study in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. Keeping air moving may prevent carbon dioxide from pooling around a sleeping baby.

**2009 Standard Meal Allowance**

Breakfast- \$1.17  
Snack- .65  
Lunch \$2.18

**PROVIDERS BE ON THE LOOK OUT FROM DHR CONCERNING THE MARKET RATE SURVEY. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A POST CARD FROM DHR WITH DETAILS. THE SURVEY CAN BE DONE ELECTONICALLY THIS YEAR. THIS IS VITAL THAT ALL PROVIDERS FILL THIS OUT IN ORDER FOR THE STATE TO SEE THE TRUE COST OF CHILDCARE IN THIS STATE. BE SURE AND USE YOUR PUBLISHED RATE THAT YOU ADVERTISE TO THE PUBLIC. DO NOT USE THE SUBSIDY RATE YOU ARE PAID UNLESS**

**ALL YOUR PARENTS PAY THAT SAME AMOUNT FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## **ALFCCA OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2011**

### **President Nominations:**

**Marg Peterson**

### **Treasurer Nominations:**

**Wendy Howell**

**These are the nominees that were sent to Misty Chambers, Secretary of ALFCCA by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Marg Peterson and Wendy Howell will take the office of President and Treasurer on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 since there was no opposition for these positions. Congratulations to both Marg and Wendy!!!**

### **Incoming President's Biography PRESIDENT- MARG PETERSON**

I presently hold the office of Treasurer of the Alabama Family Child Care Association. I am a Group Family Home Childcare Provider, residing in the town of Falkville, Alabama. In my desire to provide quality care to children in my area, I became the first and ONLY home childcare provider in Falkville. I received my National Accreditation from NAFCC in January 2008.

My husband Harley is very supportive of my childcare business. We have 2 grown children and three grandchildren. After working "Outside" my home since the beginning of time, it was the birth of my first grandchild that created the opportunity for me to become a family childcare provider six years ago. I feel that it is extremely important to provide **Quality** care for all children and willing to go the extra mile to insure that EVERY child has that opportunity.

My campaign for President of the ALFCCA is based on my desire to help childcare providers of Alabama feel they have a voice in their future and to unite providers across this state. Thank you for considering me for this very important position.

*Marg Peterson*

## Incoming Treasurer Biography Wendy Howell

I graduated from Vigor High School in 1967, and from a Women's Business College in Mobile, Alabama. I worked for O.H.Delchamps as an executive secretary and later worked in the legal department. I married my husband Bill in 1969, and lived in Norfolk, Virginia for 2 ½ years. We moved back home to Mobile and have 4 children.

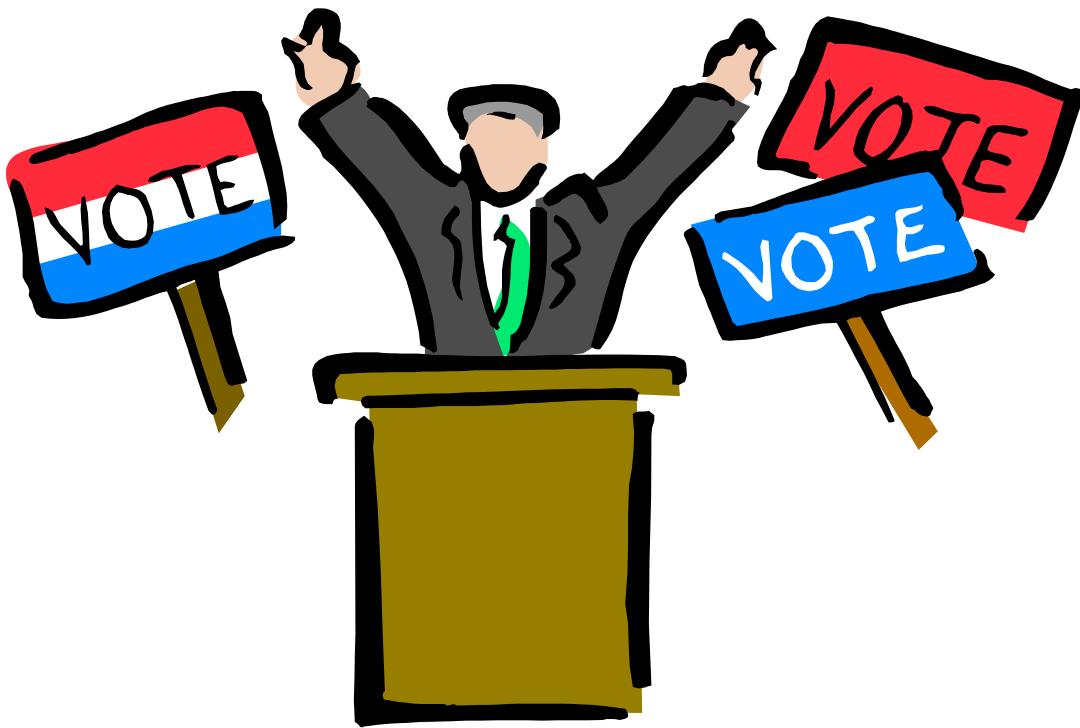
I became state licensed in 1979, and operate a group daycare home (JUST KIDS IN HOME FAMILY DAYCARE.) I care for children from birth through school age. I have been a member of several childcare organizations, FOCAL, The Federation of Licensed Child Care of Alabama, ALFCCA, Alabama Family Child Care Association and have served as President, and Vice President SAFCO, South Alabama Family Childcare Organization. I now serve as the committee chair for SAFCO. I also have been a Nationally Accredited family childcare provider.

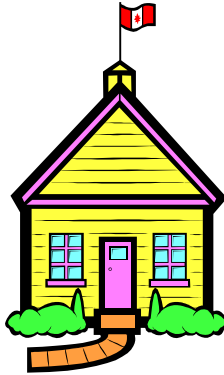
The children in my life are very important to me. My hug or "yes you can" may be the only positive thing in their life. Their character is formed by the age of three. These children will be our future leaders of this country and they need to be taught the basics that some of American's have forgotten. Love of God, family, country, respect of others and self, compassion, and friendship.

I would love to be part of a state organization that can get things done and not just talk about it. Working on the local and state level for the greater cause- Children was why I wanted to run for this position.

Thank you for your consideration of me for this position.

*Wendy Howell*





## LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **Montgomery Home Child Care Association:** **President: Lillie Hood**

I spoke with Lillie Thursday night and I want to congratulate her on being voted back in as President of the Montgomery HCCA. Lillie says the HCCA has plans for a Provider Appreciation Banquet in May. Lillie has been attending the Alabama Childcare Coalition meetings in Montgomery. She will keep us informed of any childcare issues coming out of the meetings from a provider's perception.

### **DeKalb County Home Childcare Association:** **Contact: Brenda Blansit**

January saw 10 family childcare providers participating in the "AELG" trainings conducted by Judy Davidson. The trainings were exciting as well as educational, a hands-on learning experience for all who attended. On completion of the trainings all providers will receive a certificate from The Department of Human Resources. The economy is still dealing DeKalb County a hard time; hopefully things will take a turn for all soon.



### **Madison County Home Child Care Association:** **Earlene Mitchell, President**

We would like to say CONGRATULATIONS TO: Tammy Amesbury and Karen Daniels on receiving their ACREDITATION FROM NAFCC. The HCCA will be holding a special Provider Association Dinner May 12<sup>th</sup> for its members. The night will include several special guests and lots of great fellowship for all.

**Cullman County Home Childcare Association:**  
**Glenda Aderhold and Amy Sivley, Contact Person's**

The Cullman County Association would like to welcome Cindy Reese and congratulate her on opening up her home daycare (Nana's Playhouse). We feel Cindy will be a great asset to her community. We would also like to recognize Julia Renelli who is currently working on getting her license for her home daycare (Julia's Daycare). Hang in there, Julia. You will be great! A special thanks to Glenda Aderholt who we all appreciate and love dearly. Glenda, you are an exceptional person and we want to recognize all your hard work and dedication to the association.

**Mobile County:**  
**Geraldine Morris, President**

SAFCO held a Childcare Strategy Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. There were several childcare organizations on hand to speak with the members. SAFCO will be holding their annual SPRING FLING for providers, parents and children. SAFCO always has a huge conference in the fall so watch for information on this in the future.

**Jackson County:**  
**Robin Taylor**

The Jackson County HCCA meet quarterly. They have 5 hours meetings each quarter and have guest speakers such as DHR and Helping Hands of North Alabama.

**Covington County:**  
**Florence Weaver**

The Covington County providers will celebrate the Week of the Child by having DHR come and talk with the providers on standards and childcare issues.

**Lee County:**  
**Margaret Jackson**

The Lee County HCCA is trying to get a Provider Networking System up and running. They will celebrate the week of the child with special activities at their meeting. They also will be attending dinner at the Santa Fe in Auburn for Provider Appreciation Day. Parents have donated gifts for door prizes.

**Morgan County:**  
**Marg Peterson**

Morgan County has a new licensing consultant as of February 25<sup>th</sup>. Iva Drake is replacing Kati McFarland. Due to staff turnover and other issues beyond her control Kati has been

reassigned to the adult and child abuse and neglect. Iva Drake has worked with providers in Cullman County this past year. She has also met some of the Morgan county providers and looks forward to getting to know the others. We would like to welcome Ms. Drake to our county.

**The roots of a child's ability to cope and thrive, regardless of circumstance, lie in the child's having at least a small, safe place (an apartment? a room? a lap?) in which, in the companionship of a caring person, that child could discover that he or she was lovable and capable of loving in return. From You Are Special By Fred Rogers**

### *PLAYING OUTDOORS*

*Sunny days, warm weather, and playing outside. It's every Child's dream. Even adults enjoy being outside.*

*Outside play is a great way for children to develop their gross motor skills. Children achieve this through running, jumping, climbing and swinging. It's also, a great way to learn about nature.*



*Let's forget – video games, and the battery ride-on toys. As providers, lets take a look back down memory lane. Think of the childhood games we played as children. Some of the games I remember were racing with our pedal trikes, and red wagons, hopscotch, 1-2-3 red light, Simon Says, Red Rover Red Rover, Ring around the Rosie, jumping rope climbing trees, and hide and*

*seek. Remember, the things we didn't realize? We were learning. We learned listening and following directions, counting, colors, taking turns, silly songs, and sharing.*

*By PLAYING our favorite childhood games, WE were also developing our gross motor skills, social skills, language skills, and more. The games we loved as children, the children of today still enjoy.*

*A great snack for summer is to make homemade ice cream. (You would be surprised at the number of children who have never had home-made ice cream.) Take your children outside and PLAY, PLAY, PALY!!!*

### *A Fun Day Outside*

*Cool breeze, cloudy day so the children can be outside most of the day, except for the never-ending bathroom breaks and naptime. You should try to have a kid size table for outdoor picnics.*

## ***Jungle Breakfast***

*Recipe for Fun.*

*Items Needed:*

*Cereal Boxes (The individual small ones.) Apples or Banana's*

*Individual juice boxes for each child*

*(I know juice and fruit are in the same category on the food program, but we are having fun!)*

*Have a teacher or a parent to hide the above items out on the playground before you take the children out. Tell the children they have to find one of each item before they can eat breakfast. (Cereal, fruit and juice.) We already have milk, bowls, spoons, wipes and garbage bags outside. (The children are running, laughing, and looking for their breakfast, ha ha!)*

*Another fun activity children love is to lie on sheets looking up at the clouds, listening to a story or music. All kinds of fun can be held outdoors, your theme for the week could be taught outside underneath the blue skies and warm sunshine. Children love to have picnics so make sure your spring and summer days include several. This is a teachable moment in many ways but what a great time to teach children about keeping their environments clean by helping clean up the area after lunch or snack.*

*Springtime activities bring with it the issue of safety on the playground. Remember to mention to the children often the rules of the play area. Also, it's a great idea to take your first aid kit outside in case of emergencies. I have the children's emergency contact information. Always check your playground for creepy crawlers before the children start playing.*

*Infants, should be given the opportunity to enjoy fresh air, and sunshine same as the Toddlers and Preschoolers. Take their swings and bouncy seats out and let them enjoy!! I do recommend separate play areas for infants and toddlers away from preschoolers.*

## ***Activities For Preschoolers***

*Treasure Hunts: Ideas for this activity is unbelievable. Some examples are listed below:*

- 1. Nature items, such as rocks, leaves, and bugs.*
- 2. Individual bottles of bubbles.*
- 3. Paper plates with ABC's shapes, colors and numbers.*

*Don't let summer past you by without letting the children have water play outside!! Please, don't forget to let them play in the mud. It's a great way to wash the outdoor play equipment. They love to wash cars too!!*

*Make believe is a great way to teach children about community helpers. Let them dress up as police officers, firemen or mail carriers. The police officer can direct trike traffic with a red and green-sided paper plate sign on a paper towel roll.*

### *Vegetable Gardens*

*Jerry (my husband) and I are planning a huge garden this year. I've decided to teach the older children about growing fruits and vegetables. I think it will be fun and exciting. (Teachable Moments), for all of us. I plan on letting them help plant and water the garden. As our fruits and vegetables begin to grow, we'll walk through the garden and look at how each plant looks talking about color and texture. Harvesting the crop should be an exciting day for all of us. We are in hopes of getting the children to eat healthier since they helped them to grow at Ms. Brenda's.*

*Submitted By:*

*Tiger Tots Preschool*

*Brenda Blansit- DeKalb County*



## THE ALFCCA RECOGNIZES THESE NEW ALABAMA LICENSED FAMILY CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

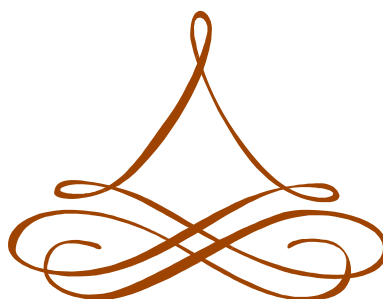
JULIA RANELLI FROM HANCEVILLE ALABAMA.  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BUSINESS!

CINDY REESE FROM CULLMAN COUNTY

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BUSINESS !

THE ALFCCA HOPES YOU BOTH WILL BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.

If you know of a new family childcare provider please let us know so we can recognize them in our next new letter.



The ALFCCA EXECUTIVE board had a very productive meeting April 4<sup>th</sup>. Our special guest's were Dr. Elaine Miller from Family Child Care Partnership out of Auburn, Alabama and Teumbey Barnes, Child Care Organizer from The Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama. Dr. Miller gave an update on the Family Childcare Conference to be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Auburn. We hope that we see many of you there at our Meet and Greet on Friday evening. The ALFCCA wants to thank Dr. Miller and Peter Miller, conference organizer for all they have done to have ALFCCA there at the conference.

Ms. Teumbey Barnes brought us up to date on the Alabama Childcare Alliance that have been working on the subsidy funding issue in Montgomery and the plans they have for other issues of concern such as exempt childcare. She provided us with dates of other important childcare meetings that need our attention and action. The ALFCCA will send information out by email on these meetings, and send updates when needed. Teumbey brought with her a very special guest Ms. Lillie Hood past membership chairperson of the ALFCCA. It was wonderful to have her there and she provided information on the Alabama Early Childhood Guidelines courses the state are providing to its provider's.

The executive board amended the by-laws and these will be presented to members at the conference on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

We worked on plans for the Meet and Greet Friday night June 19<sup>th</sup> in Auburn.

We are still working on the website with provider information for future parents and are in hopes of getting it along with keeping the Auburn site also up and running. The board likes the idea of having the two different sites to meet the different needs of those we serve. The new website will list provider's that have supplied information of their businesses to ALFCCA by the counties in which they live so perspective parents trying to locate childcare in a certain county in the state will be able to find what is available in that county. Advertisers will also be accepted at this sight, this will help maintain the sight and hopefully provide a little income to the association as well. The Auburn site is all about provider information and news. It provides a service to providers.

Amy Waine presided over the meeting and called it to order.

Misty Chambers read the minutes of the last meeting.

Katrina Lister gave a report on new and renewed members.

Marg Peterson gave the financial report.

The next board meeting will be held in Montgomery all members are welcomed to attend. Date will be confirmed and emailed to board and ALFCCA members.



Over **35** Years

**Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama, Inc.**

**FOCAL**

P.O Box 214 \* Montgomery, AL.

36101-0214

Of Dedication to Children in Alabama!

Tel. 334-262-3456 \* Fax 334-264-5659 \* [www.focalfocal.org](http://www.focalfocal.org)

## **CHILD CARE IN ALABAMA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

The Alabama Child Care Subsidy Program provides child care assistance to low- income working parents. Child care subsidies:

- Help parents keep their jobs and stay off welfare
- Help children remain in safe, caring child care arrangements.

Recent cuts and fee increases in child care hurt low-income working families

- Fees charged parents on the subsidy program were increased
- Parents beginning to move out of poverty were cut off the program

Fewer and fewer families and children are helped by the subsidy program

June 2008	32,241 children
July	30,230
Aug	31,340
Sept	29,753
Oct	29,200
Nov	28,872
Dec	27,381
Jan 2009	27,076
Feb	26,921

The Recovery Plan (stimulus plan) proposed and passed by Congress will give Alabama \$38 million dollars for child care for two years. You can help make sure that

- Child care stimulus money is used only for child care in Alabama
- Children on waiting lists for child care subsidies are enrolled in child care programs
- The state budget for 2009- 2010 does not indicate funds in line 1800
- The state of Alabama invests more money in child care to help working families, children, quality early education, and our economic growth

You can

- Visit, call, email and write your representative and your senator: increase child care funding in the 2009-2010 budget
- Call, email and write to Governor Bob Riley before March 20: increase childcare funding in his new 2009-2010 budget
- Attend Alabama Child Care Alliance Meetings.

For more information call the FOCAL Office and ask for Deborah Thomas or Teumbay Barnes: 334-262-3456 or 800-300-0232

FOCAL received word April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 that DHR has received the stimulus money that will fund the child care subsidy program fully. We must continue to advocate that this money be spent on the care of children of this state. We all know from past experiences that money meant for child care is always the first place DHR wants to cut in order to fund other projects. **STAY INFORMED** and ready to act if needed to save our child care dollars!!!!

# THANK YOU

The Alabama Family Child Care Association would like to thank FOCAL and the Alabama Child Care Alliance on all the hard work they did for advocating on behalf of children and families of Alabama.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER AND THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE SENT OUT IN AUGUST.**

*Fran*