



In April 2005, the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division, convened representatives from various early care and education stakeholder groups to begin planning for a professional development system to address the training and education needs of caregivers and teachers in the field of early childhood and school-age care. This collaborative effort was in response to the Bush Administration's *Good Start, Grow Smart (GSGS)* initiative "for the purpose of improving the preparation and ongoing development of early care and education providers." The goal of the *Alabama Child Care and Education Professional Development System* or ***Alabama Pathways to Quality Care and Education (Alabama Pathways)*** is "to provide a path to support and advance the best practices of those who care for and teach children from birth through 12 years."

***Alabama Pathways*** is designed to assist individuals who work in various early childhood and school-age care settings identify appropriate professional preparation and ongoing professional development that is specific to child development and early childhood education. The early childhood and school-age care professionals who benefit from participating in ***Alabama Pathways*** care for and teach children in programs that are required to be licensed and those that are exempt from being licensed.

The ***Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice*** is a system that provides early care and education professionals with a tool to track their professional development. Each individual can identify her/his current place on the ***Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice***, as well as the progressive path to enhanced training and education within the field of early care and education.

The ***Alabama Pathways*** brochure is on the DHR web site at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) in the [regular brochure version](#) and in a [printer friendly version](#). If access to a computer is a barrier to obtaining ***Alabama Pathways***, hard copies of the brochure can be obtained by individuals by calling the Child Care Services Division at (334) 242-1425 or toll free at (866) 528-1694 and asking to speak with a Quality Enhancement Coordinator.