

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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Upcoming Revisions to *Quality for ME*

In July of 2014, the State of Maine contracted with the University of Maine, in partnership with the University of Southern Maine's Cutler Institute of Health and Social Policy at the Muskie School of Public Service, to conduct a year-long study of *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system. The goal of this study is to make recommendations to the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) for revisions to this system.

During the next year, the project staff will form a stakeholder Advisory Committee to meet quarterly to provide oversight to the revision process, review feedback from practitioners and parents, and help guide the development of the final recommended revisions.

Project staff will conduct regional focus groups to allow practitioners to examine recommended revisions and provide suggestions. The project plans to reach out to both practitioners who work at programs that are already participating in *Quality for ME* as well as those who are not enrolled, to better understand the benefits and the challenges posed by the current *Quality for ME* system.

This process will include building on recommendations from the 2011 *Quality for ME* Validation Study conducted by researchers at the University of Southern Maine and gathering best practice information from other states.

Sonja Howard and Priscilla Armstrong are the Maine Roads to Quality staff who will be working on this project primarily. We plan to provide updates on the *Quality for ME* Revision Project in *Pathways* during the upcoming year and, as always, look forward to hearing about your concerns and suggestions.

Maine Roads to Quality Scholarship Awards

MRTQ, in partnership with the Maine DHHS, OCFS, offers the MRTQ Scholarship Program to working professionals in Maine. Scholarships are available to students who meet the eligibility requirements and are enrolled in one of the following programs:

- An Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in ECE or a closely related field
- Course work to complete an 081 Certification (Early Childhood Teacher)
- Course work to complete a 282 Credential (Teacher of Young Children with Disabilities, Birth to Age 5)
- A Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential
- Maine's Infant Toddler Credential 2



The next application deadline for Spring and Summer courses is November 1, 2014. For any questions about scholarships contact Pam Soucy at psoucy@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5258.

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On the web:
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>

Like us on Facebook:
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Maine's Director Credential

The Maine Director Credential is designed to bring recognition for the education, experience, and skills



related to effective early care and education program operation. The credential is appropriate for experienced directors, administrators, or lead staff in child care settings. A complete overview of the credential and an application packet is available on the Maine Roads to Quality website at

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/dircredential.html>

For more information, please contact Lee Lingelbach at Maine Roads to Quality at llingelbach@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5204.

Maine's Infant Toddler Credential I

Do you work with infants and toddlers? Would you be interested in being part of a statewide cohort with other professionals? Now is the time! MRTQ's ITCI Cohort can help you:



- Earn training contact hours
- Become oriented to the ITCI Portfolio and process
- Access one-on-one support
- Connect with other professionals through free monthly conference calls
- Become a part of an online community of practice

Full details about the requirements for the ITCI can be found on the MRTQ website at

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/itcredentials.htm>

For more information, please contact Debora Schofield at Maine Roads to Quality at dschofield@usm.maine.edu or 207-228-8144.

Our next conference call is October 7th, 6:30-7:30pm!

Maine's Youth Development Credential

Do you work with school age children? Would you be interested in being part of a statewide cohort with other professionals? Now is the time! MRTQ's YDC Cohort can help you:



- Earn training contact hours
- Become oriented to the YDC Portfolio and process
- Access one-on-one support
- Connect with other professionals through free monthly conference calls
- Become a part of an online community of practice

Full details about the requirements for the YDC can be found on the MRTQ website at

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/ydcredential.htm>

For more information, please contact Pam Prevost at Maine Roads to Quality at pprevost@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5031.

Applications for the new cohort are due September 25th!

Pre-Accreditation Support Is Now Available

Maine Roads to Quality is pleased to be able to offer pre-accreditation support for family child care, child care centers, and school age programs beginning this fall.

For child care centers interested in learning more about accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children, **please see page 5 of this newsletter for information about the "Laying the Foundations of NAEYC Accreditation" class.**

For family child care and school age programs, please visit the MRTQ website for detailed information. An informational flyer was mailed to all licensed programs in August and was attached to the email with this newsletter.

Please contact MRTQ at 1-888-900-0055 or mrtq-contact@usm.maine.edu with questions.

FALL 2014 TRAINING SCHEDULE

For complete training descriptions, driving directions, instructor information, and the link to register, please visit the **Maine Early Care and Education Online Training Calendar** at: <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>. For a full list of MRTQ Training Policies, click: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/TrainingRegistrationPolicies.pdf>

Seeing Stars? Training descriptions that include a star(s) will meet a requirement for one or more of the following Maine Roads to Quality Credentials:



Director Credential



Youth Development Credential



Infant Toddler Credential I

Introduction to Infant Mental Health: Issues and Practice (18 hours) – Face-to-Face

This training covers topics concerning personality development, the balance between attachments systems and exploratory system, developmental and environmental aspects, and influences on parent and child's sense of self and developing competencies.



Two Options

Option 1: Saturdays, September 20th & 27th; 9:00am-4:00pm AND Tuesday and Thursday, September 23rd & 25th; 5:30-8:30pm

Location: Red and White Building, Belfast

Option 2: Saturdays, December 6th, 13th & 20th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: ACAP, Presque Isle

Links to Learning (45 hours) – Face-to-Face



This training will provide tools for creating after school programs that effectively connect children's multiple worlds (home, school, afterschool, peers, and community), building on the latest research on topics such as resiliency, homework support, and youth engagement.

Two Options (no classes during Thanksgiving week):

Option 1: Thursdays, September 25th – December 11th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Wentworth School, Scarborough

Option 2: Thursdays, September 25th – December 11th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Maine Discovery Museum, Bangor

Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development (30 hours) – Online



This training is designed to guide providers through the history, creation, and use of this publication, which outlines learning and development from birth to three. The modules focus on orienting providers to the document and on developing understanding relationships.

Three Options:

Option 1: October 1st – December 3rd (no assignments during Thanksgiving week)

Option 2: November 5th – January 14th (no assignments during Thanksgiving or Christmas weeks)

Option 3: December 3rd – February 4th (no assignments during Christmas week)

Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines (30 hours) – Online



This training is an orientation to Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines that covers integrating the guidelines into your current curriculum, adapting the guidelines to children with special needs, observation and assessment of young children using the guidelines and sharing them with families.

Two Options:

Option 1: October 1st – December 3rd (no assignments during Thanksgiving week)

Option 2: October 8th – December 10th (no assignments during Thanksgiving week)

Fostering the Social Emotional Development of Young Children (30 hours) – Hybrid

This training focuses on helping all children develop social skills, self-confidence, and build their social-emotional intelligence. Participants will take an in-depth look at what impacts children's behaviors to help teachers be proactive in supporting children's positive social and emotional development. The content covers building relationships, assessing the environment and curriculum, designing strategies to support children to maintain peer relationships, develop skills to improve self-regulation and conflict resolution, and identifying community resources when involving other specialists as needed.



Dates: October 4th – November 15th; face-to-face classes on Saturdays, October 4th & 25th and November 15th; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: University of Southern Maine, Portland

Your Professional Development Portfolio: The How, When, and Why (9 hours) – Face-to-Face

This training is a brief exploration into how to create and utilize several of the portfolios found within the field of Early Childhood Education. We will set the path towards a deeper understanding of a professional portfolio, how to create one, and why you might want to have one!

Dates: Mondays, October 20th – November 3rd; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Windham High School, Windham

Creating Inclusive Youth Development Settings (30 hours) – Online ★

This curriculum will take participants through ten modules that provide an overview and foundation of positive youth development practices, strategies and tools for working in school age programs supporting inclusive practices.

Dates: October 8th – December 17th

Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety (18 hours) – Online ★★

Participants will be introduced to the importance of health, wellness, and safety through personal care routines, nutrition education, and environmental hazards that could impact the health of children and families.

Dates: October 8th – November 19th

Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers (12 hours) – Online ★

Children experience the best quality of care when parent(s) and family and caregivers are partners with the same goals for the child. This training will offer caregivers information about families today - varieties, characteristics, stresses, challenges, and trends.

Dates: October 22nd – November 19th

Early Childhood Education: Theory to Practice (9 hours) – Online

This training covers the historical perspective of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in the U.S., major types of ECE programs, a survey of major theorists who have contributed to the field, and an overview of common terminology. (Formerly "Introduction to Early Childhood Education")

Dates: October 29th – November 19th

Inclusive Child Care (30 hours) – Hybrid

This training covers topics to fully include and support all children and families in center-based or family child care settings. It uses an interdisciplinary approach to support staff, families and children and emphasizes the beliefs, attitudes, and values of inclusion.

Dates: October 25th – January 17th; face-to-face classes on Saturdays, October 25th, December 6th, and January 17th; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Center for Community Inclusion and Disabilities Studies, Augusta

Teambuilding with Staff: The Collective Wisdom of Teams (6 hours) – Face-to-Face

This training will allow staff to learn how to best work as a team. Participants will explore the definition of a team as well as team basics.

Dates: Saturday, November 22nd; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: St. Louis Child Development Center, Biddeford

Stepping Up with Quality for ME (12 hours each) – Online

These online trainings are intended to guide programs through the requirements of Maine's quality rating and improvement system, *Quality for ME*. Trainings are available for a variety of settings – family child care, center-based programs, and school age programs. **More information and registration can be found on the Training Calendar.**



Dates for all settings: October 1st – December 3rd (no assignments during Thanksgiving week)

Stress Happens: Distress or Eustress...Which Will You Choose? (6 hours) – Online

Stress can be all around us – as individuals and professionals. This 6 hour training is a brief journey in exploring and defining those stressors and how to manage the stress in our lives.

Two Options:

Option 1: Saturday, November 15th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: Milbridge location TBD

Option 2: Thursday, December 4th; 6:00-9:00pm
AND Saturday, December 6th; 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: Clover Preschool, Auburn

Laying the Foundations for NAEYC Accreditation (27 hours) – Online

Do you have some questions about working toward accreditation, but you are not quite ready to commit to the accreditation process yet?



Maine Roads to Quality will be offering an online training to help prepare child care center directors and lead staff for the process of pursuing accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Dates: September 24th – December 3rd (no assignments due Thanksgiving week)

Please Note:

- Registration closes two business days before the start of the training to allow MRTQ and the trainer adequate preparation time. Many trainings fill quickly, so we advise you to register early!
- MRTQ is sometimes able to add additional training based on demand; if you try to register for a training that is full, we highly recommend that you place your name on the waiting list. If a second session is added, those on the waiting list receive priority registration!
- Look for our Winter edition of *Pathways* on December 1st!

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Maine Roads to Quality Child Care Leadership Institutes I, II, and III (30 hour each) – Hybrid

The Maine Roads to Quality Child Care Leadership Institutes are designed specifically for child care center directors and administrators. Leadership I presents the foundational skills required for a center director and is designed for those who are relatively new to their leadership position. Leadership II builds on the concepts from Leadership I, focusing on building leadership skills, supervision, communication, and organizational climate. The final Institute in the series is designed for those practitioners who are working to expand their leadership role and begin to focus on advocacy. All three courses are being offered in a hybrid format. Modules 1, 3, and 5 will be conducted online and Modules 2 and 4 will take place in a classroom setting. **Registration for each Institute is separate.**

Leadership I: Building the Foundation for Quality in Early Childhood Programs

Dates: October 15th – November 12th; in-class meetings on October 24th and November 7th, 9:00am-4:30pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

Leadership II: Leadership in Early Childhood Education Today

Dates: November 12th – December 17th; in-class meetings on November 21st and December 12th, 9:00am-4:30pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

Leadership III: Transforming Leaders and Programs

Dates: September 17th – October 10th; in-class meetings on September 26th and October 10th, 9:00am-4:30pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

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