

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

PO Box 9300, 34 Bedford Street,
Portland, ME 04104
1-888-900-0055
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>

Volume 2, Issue 3
Spring 2015

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How to reach us...

By phone:
1-888-900-0055 (toll-free)
207-780-5646 (TTY)
By fax:
207-780-5817
By email:
mrtq-contact@usm.maine.edu
On the web:
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>
Like us on Facebook:
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WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD™

How Will You Celebrate?

The Week of the Young Child™ (WOYC) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

MRTQ will offer stipends up to \$150 to support a WOYC event to bring awareness of the importance of quality early care and education for our youngest learners throughout the state of Maine. To be eligible, a child care program must submit a plan that involves community members, social service agencies (such as United Ways), or local businesses to support a community event. Event sponsors must fill out an application outlining their event, agencies involved, and a detailed plan for their WOYC Celebration to be held during the week of April 12th – 19th, 2015. MRTQ's Advisory Council members will review applications on a rolling basis and will notify applicants within two weeks of the status of their proposal.

Deadline for application is March 27th, 2015.

The application is available on the [MRTQ website](http://mrtq.usm.maine.edu). For more information, please contact Pam Soucy at psoucy@usm.maine.edu or by phone at 207-626-5258.



Save the Date: MRTQ Symposium 2015!

MRTQ is excited to announce that our Symposium for 2015 will be held on Saturday, October 24th, 2015 at the Augusta Civic Center. The theme for this year is "Full STEAM Ahead!" – the keynote and

workshops will all focus on integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in early childhood and school age programs.

Registration information will be available in the summer edition of *Pathways*. Do you have an idea for a workshop? Let us know! Send an email to mrtq-contact@usm.maine.edu or call us at 1-888-900-0055. We hope to see you there!

Interested in the New Maine Inclusion Credential?

MRTQ has partnered with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies to create the new Maine Inclusion Credential. Working with children who have special needs and/or disabilities can present unique opportunities and challenges to the early childhood education field. Even the most experienced practitioners are sometimes at a loss concerning how to best support a child and family. This credential is designed to help practitioners build skills, knowledge, resources, and attitudes to promote quality, inclusive practices in their programs.

MRTQ is forming a cohort to support practitioners working toward this new credential. Support will include monthly meetings, guidance around the portfolio requirements, and peer-to-peer support. The cohort will begin meeting the fall of 2015; applications for the cohort are being accepted now through September 1st.

To complete the cohort application or learn more about the credential, visit the MRTQ website at

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



Quality for ME Revision Progress



Staff at USM's Muskie School of Public Service continue to work

on recommendations for Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services regarding revisions to *Quality for ME*. During the fall and winter, the project has been collecting feedback from providers and parents, both in regional focus groups and through an online form. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their thoughts!

The project will end on June 30th, 2015 with the delivery of the recommendations to DHHS, OCFS.

MRTQ Wants to Recognize Exceptional Teachers!

At Symposium 2015 in October, MRTQ will present the **Marcia Lovell Award** to up to eight individual teachers (from the Maine DHHS Districts*) who exemplify the late Marcia Lovell's ideals that all children are included in high-quality, inclusive early childhood settings. MRTQ is inviting the public to nominate exceptional teachers for this award. The MRTQ Advisory Council will review the nominations and decide on the winners.

Criteria for the award are:

- A teacher in a child care center, family child care, before and after school program, Head Start, public preschool program, or nursery school.
- The teacher must be a member of the MRTQ Registry.
- A complete nomination form must be received by July 31st, 2015.

We would like to recognize classroom teachers and family child care providers who are making a difference in the lives of young children and their families in Maine. [Complete nomination criteria are available on the MRTQ website.](#)

In addition, MRTQ will be selecting a recipient for the **Compass Award**, which will be given to an individual or organization that has done an outstanding job advancing the field of early childhood education in the state of Maine. Previous winners of the Compass Award include Maine's DHHS and the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee.

* The DHHS Districts are: York (District 1), Cumberland (District 2), Oxford, Franklin, and Androscoggin (District 3), Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo (District 4), Kennebec and Somerset (District 5), Penobscot and Piscataquis (District 6), Washington and Hancock (District 7), and Aroostook (District 8).



Our goal at Maine Roads to Quality is to ensure that all Core Knowledge Trainings are offered on a regular schedule and in formats that are accessible to all. As we assist you in planning professional development for yourself or for your staff, we hope to create a training calendar that is responsive to your needs. The best way to let us know what trainings are needed is to fill out our annual Needs Assessment Survey, which will be sent out in May! The results of this survey, in conjunction with other factors, are used to create our Training Plan for the year. We want to hear from you!

SPRING 2015 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 the following MRTQ Credentials:



Director Credential



Youth Development Credential



Infant Toddler Credential I



Inclusion Credential

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

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!

Two Options:

Face-to-Face Option: Mondays, March 23rd – April 6th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Wentworth Intermediate School, Scarborough

Online Option: May 6th – 27th

Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers (12 hours) – Online/Face-to-Face

Children experience the best quality of care when families 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.

Two Options:

Online Option Dates: March 25th – April 22nd

Face-to-Face Option Dates: Saturdays, May 2nd & 9th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: Bath YMCA, Bath

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

This training covers the historical perspective of early childhood education 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. (This training was formerly called “Introduction to Early Childhood Education.”)

Dates: Mondays, March 23rd – April 6th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

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.

Option 1:

Dates: Mondays, March 23rd – May 20th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Morse Street School, Freeport

Option 2:

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 7th – May 14th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Hall-Dale Elementary School, Hallowell

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: April 1st – June 10th

Curriculum and Development for Preschool-Age Children (30 hours) – Online

This curriculum is designed to introduce participants to planning and implementing curriculum to meet the unique needs of preschoolers. Even though they are all individuals, preschoolers follow a predictable pattern of development. In this training, participants will explore these commonalities and will learn how to make accommodations for children, when necessary.

Dates: April 1st – June 10th

Creating Peace and Honoring Diversity (18 hours) – Hybrid

This training will inspire educators to provide children opportunities to experience the topics of peace and diversity as they start to develop their own self-perceptions in relation to the world around them. Participants will learn how to empower children and families to be proud of who they are, while opening their hearts to those different from themselves.

Dates: Saturdays, April 4th & May 2nd, 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between in-class sessions

Location: Child and Family Opportunities, Ellsworth

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 age three. The modules focus on the document and on developing understanding relationships.

Three Options:

Option 1 Dates: April 8th – June 3rd

Option 2 Dates: May 6th – July 1st

Option 3 Dates: June 3rd – August 5th

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.

Date: Saturday, April 18th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: ACAP, Presque Isle

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.

Dates: April 1st – May 27th

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 Summer edition of *Pathways* on June 1st!

Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (30 hours) – Face-to-Face



This training covers a wide range of topics with the objective of helping early care and education practitioners develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Through this training participants will have opportunities to explore resources, share strategies and ideas, and consider ways to enhance the environments in which they work and play with children.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 22nd & 29th, May 13th & 20th, June 3rd & 10th; 6:00-9:00pm AND Saturdays, May 9th & 30th, 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: University College, Rockland (Wednesdays) and Rockport location TBD (Saturdays)

Foundations of Inclusion: Relevant Laws, Featuring the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (6 hours) – Hybrid/Online



This training will give an introduction on the history of disabilities and inclusion in the United States as well as relevant laws governing the way inclusive services and supports are delivered. Participants will explore how belief and attitudes have historically influenced how services and supports are developed, their own values and beliefs about disability and inclusion.

New!

Two Options:

Hybrid Option Dates: April 15th – 30th, face-to-face session on Thursday, April 30th, 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Center for Community Inclusion, Augusta

Online Option Dates: May 27th – June 10th

Stress Happens: Distress or Eustress – Which Will You Choose? (6 hours) – Face-to-Face

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.

Three Options:

Option 1 Date: Saturday, April 18th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: Community Concepts, South Paris

Option 2 Date: Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: St. Louis Child Dev. Center, Biddeford

Option 3 Date: Saturday, May 2nd; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: ACAP, Houlton

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: May 6th – June 17th

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 systems, developmental and environmental aspects, and influences on parent and child's sense of self and developing competencies.

Dates: Saturdays, May 16th & 30th; 9:00am-3:30pm, Tuesday, May 19th and Thursday, May 21st, 6:00-9:00pm

Location: St. Louis Child Development Center, Biddeford

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 belief, attitudes, and values of inclusion.

Dates: May 2nd – June 20th, face-to-face sessions on Saturdays, May 2nd & 30th and June 20th, 9:00am-3:30pm, online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Parkside Children's Learning Center, Bangor

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Child Care Leadership Institute I: Building the Foundations for Quality in Early Childhood Settings (30 hours) – Hybrid

This training covers theory and legality as related to operating a child care center, the essential skills of staff hiring and supervision, family communication, professionalism and self-survival within the art of administering early childhood centers

Dates: May 6th – June 3rd; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 5/15 and 5/29; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: University of Southern Maine, Portland

Upcoming Dates for Child Care Leadership Institute II: June 17th – July 15th in Portland; more information will be included in the Summer edition of Pathways!

Maine Roads to Quality Scholarship Program Updates

The next deadline date is May 1st for Summer 2015 courses.

Applications for the 2015-2016 school year (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016) are due July 1st, 2015.

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 Doctorate degree in early childhood education 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; or a Maine's Infant Toddler Credential 2.

Scholarship Applications are on the MRTQ website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/scholarship.htm> and must be postmarked by May 1st, 2015.

Non-Discrimination Notice: The University of Southern Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veterans' status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity & Compliance, 209 Deering Avenue, Portland campus, 207-780-5510.

This newsletter is funded by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services.