

Pathways

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

Volume 3, Issue 3
Spring 2016

Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) Training Update

MRTQ PDN, in partnership with the Maine Department of Education (DOE), has developed two trainings on the MELDS: a 30-hour training that serves as an introduction to using the MELDS, and a 15-hour training called "Bridge to MELDS" that is meant for practitioners who have already completed the 30-hour training "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines." (Any practitioner is welcome to take the 30-hour training, whether or not they have taken the prior "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines" training.)

MRTQ PDN will be offering both trainings this spring. Details are included on page 5 of this newsletter and on the MRTQ PDN Statewide Training Calendar at: <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>.

The training "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines" will no longer be offered. If your program is enrolled with *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system, and must renew your certificate in 2016, please contact MRTQ PDN at mrtq.contact@maine.edu. MRTQ PDN staff can help you determine which training is appropriate for you staff, depending on your program's Step with *Quality for ME*.

Please be assured that MRTQ PDN will work with the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Child and Family Services to support a smooth transition for practitioners wishing to enroll in these new trainings, whether to fulfill a requirement for *Quality for ME* or for their own professional development.

Now Available: Inclusion Warm Line

1-844-209-5964 * inclusion.warmline@maine.edu

What is a warm line? A warm line is a telephone line (or email) that provides assistance for people whose need is not urgent (a play on the meaning of "hotline").

The Inclusion Warm Line is a free, confidential telephone and email consultation service for child care practitioners that will provide information, support, and resources.

The Inclusion Warm Line serves as the first step in providing practical, accurate information to support the inclusion of children with special needs, disabilities, mental health needs, and concerning/challenging behavior in early childhood programs.

The Inclusion Warm Line will be operated by MRTQ PDN and jointly staffed by Inclusion, Health, and Mental Health Consultants from MRTQ PDN and the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS).



In this issue...

- New MELDS Trainings, page 1
- Inclusion Warm Line Now Available, page 1
- Update on Child Care Licensing Revisions, page 2
- Summer Scholarship Opportunities, page 2
- Seeking Nominations for the 2016 Marcia Lovell Awards, page 2
- Professional Development Needs Assessment Coming in Late Spring, page 2
- MRTQ Winter Training Schedule, pages 3-5
- Maine Afterschool Network Survey Reminder, page 6
- Week of the Young Child Collaboration Grants Now Available, page 6

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@maine.edu

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

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/maineroads

Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/maineroads

2015 Market Rate Survey Report

Thanks to all programs that completed the 2015 Market Rate Survey. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, hired the consulting firm ICF to conduct the survey and write a report, which is now available on the Maine DHHS website:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/chil-d-care.html>.

Also on the DHHS website, you can find a draft of Maine's plan for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). This plan is still in draft form; a final plan is expected by June 1st, 2016.



Summer Scholarship Opportunities

MRTQ PDN is pleased to announce changes to the application process for practitioners seeking either a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential through the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition OR one of the MRTQ PDN Credentials (Infant Toddler, Youth Development, Director, or Inclusion).

Applications for CDA Credential fees and MRTQ PDN Credential application fees will be accepted year-round. **You must have completed 90 hours of MRTQ PDN Core Knowledge training in order to apply for these scholarships.**

Applications for Maine colleges and universities, 081 and 282 certifications, or Praxis fees will be awarded by semester with application deadlines as follows:

- May 1st for Summer course work
- July 1st for Fall course work
- November 1st for Spring course work

Questions can be directed to Pam Soucy at pamela.soucy@maine.edu or 207-626-5258.



Seeking Nominations for the 2016 Marcia Lovell Awards

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

Criteria for the award are:

- A practitioner in a child care center, family child care, before and after school program, Head Start, public preschool program, or nursery school.
- The nominee must be a member of the MRTQ Registry.
- A complete nomination form must be received by July 31st, 2016.

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

* 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).



Professional Development Needs Assessment from MRTQ PDN Coming in Late Spring

By early May, all MRTQ Registry members (with web access) will receive an email invitation to complete the online Professional Development Needs Assessment. (Surveys will also be sent to all licensed programs.)

We encourage you to fill out these questions regarding YOUR needs around professional development – training, scholarships, technical assistance, or other supports. We will also be asking a few questions about your needs around child care health consulting as a way for us to assist you in that area as well.

Your feedback is important to us! Please complete the survey and let us know how we can help you better!

SPRING 2016 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) – 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!

Option #1: March 16th – April 6th

Option #2: April 27th – May 18th

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

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: March 24th – April 16th

Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (30 hours) – Online and 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. 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.

Online Dates: March 30th – June 8th

Face-to-Face Dates: Tuesdays, March 15th – May 17th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

Linking Assessment to Curriculum in the Preschool Classroom (9 hours) – Online

This training is designed for practitioners working in child care centers to help increase knowledge and level of comfort with the process of assessment and curriculum planning in the preschool classroom.

Dates: March 16th – April 6th

Environments in Early Care and Education (30 hours) – Online

The objective of this training is to help early care and education practitioners develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Every setting has unique benefits and challenges – 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: April 6th – June 15th

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: March 30th – May 11th

Foundations of Universal Design and Individualizing (12 hours) – Hybrid and Face-to-Face



In this training, participants will gain knowledge about the concept of Universal Design (UD) and how to individualize for all children. Topics will include the philosophy of UD as a way of creating communities, the “what” and “how” of establishing a community so that all children can benefit, and practicing simple modification and adaptation strategies to support children’s success.

Hybrid Dates: April 6th – 28th, face-to-face sessions on Thursdays, 4/18 and 4/28; 6:00-9:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: WG Mallett School, Farmington

Face-to-Face Dates: Mondays, April 18th and June 13th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: Steuben Parish Hall, Steuben

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.

Option #1: Saturday, April 23rd; 9:00am-3:30pm AND Wednesdays, April 27th – May 18th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Payson Smith Hall, USM Campus, Portland

Option #2: Thursday and Friday May 19th & 20th and Friday, June 17th; 9:00am-3:30pm

Location: Steuben Parish Hall, Steuben

Teaching Adult Learners (18 hours) – Online

This training is for any professional working with adult learners. It will cover the topics of “who is the adult learner?” self-reflection on who the trainer is as an educator, and the role the trainer plays in present and future professional development of the adult learner. It will also examine the dynamics of online learning and training and explore the requirements for becoming a Maine Roads to Quality Approved Trainer.

Dates: April 13th – May 25th

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?

MRTQ PDN 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: April 27th – June 29th

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.

Option #1: April 6th – June 1st

Option #2: May 4th – June 29th

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



This training will give an introduction to 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, as well as their own values and beliefs about disability and inclusion.

Dates: May 18th – June 1st

*Pre-registration is required for all MRTQ PDN training.
Participants are expected to attend all in-class sessions and to complete all online assignments.
The Summer edition of Pathways will be mailed on June 1st.*

Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (30 hours) – Online

This is the **NEW** training on the MELDS. (See the article on page 1 for more details about this training.)

Option #1: April 13th – June 8th

Option #2: April 20th – June 15th

Option #3: April 27th – June 22nd

Option #4: May 4th – June 29th

Bridge to MELDS (15 hours) – Online

This is the **NEW** training on the MELDS *designed for practitioners who have completed the training “Maine’s Early Childhood Learning Guidelines.”* (See the article on page 1 for more details about this training.)

Dates: “Bridge to MELDS” trainings will start WEEKLY on Wednesdays from April 13th through May 25th. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and class size is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Collaborating with Others to Support Inclusion (12 hours) – Hybrid

Working as a team to support children with disabilities can sometimes be a challenge and we might wonder about the right things to say and do. This training will cover strategies for collaborating with families and other professionals, teambuilding strategies, and conflict resolution skills.

Dates: May 4th – 25th; face-to-face classes Wednesdays 5/11 and 5/25; 6:00-9:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Windham Public Library, Windham

Child Care Leadership Institute II: Leadership in Early Childhood Education Today (30 hours) – Hybrid

Leadership II builds on the concepts from Leadership I, focusing on building leadership skills, supervision, communication, and organizational climate.

Dates: April 27th – May 20th; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 5/6 and 5/20; 9:00am-4:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Waterville

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

Children experience the best quality of care when parent(s), 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: May 25th – June 22nd

Child Care Leadership Institute III: Transforming Leaders and Programs (30 hours) – Hybrid

This training builds upon topics introduced in Child Care Leadership Institutes I and II and is specifically oriented toward early childhood practitioners who are interested in expanding their leadership skills and becoming an advocate for young children and their families.

Dates: June 15th – July 15th; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 6/24 and 7/15; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Waterville

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 to explore and define those stressors and how to manage the stress in our lives.

Dates: June 8th – 22nd

Teambuilding with Staff: The Collective Wisdom of Teams (6 hours) – Online

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: June 8th – 22nd

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY
PO BOX 9300
PORTLAND, ME 04104-9300

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT NO. 370



PORTLAND • GORHAM • LEWISTON • ONLINE

Complete the Maine Afterschool Network's Survey!

The Maine Afterschool Network is gathering information about Maine afterschool programs. We ask that you take a moment to fill out our survey if you care for school aged children in any capacity! Fill out the survey here:



<http://www.maineafterschool.org/maine-afterschool-data-survey/>

Collaboration Grants Available for

WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD™

Events!

MRTQ PDN will offer stipends up to \$150 to support Week of the Young Child events 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 be sponsoring a community-based event. Event sponsors must fill out an online application outlining their event, collaborative partners involved, and a detailed plan for their WOYC Celebration to be held during the week of April 9th – 16th, 2016. MRTQ PDN'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 applications is March 18th, 2016. Programs are encouraged to complete their applications as soon as possible.** Please use the link below to apply:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WOTYCollabgrant>

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, Child Care Development Block Grant.