

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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Welcome to *Pathways*, Newsletter for Maine Roads to Quality

The past two years have brought about tremendous changes for the early care and education community here in Maine. During this time of transition, Maine Roads to Quality now brings to you our “new” newsletter, with an old name. Those of you who have been in the field for a number of years may recognize the name *Pathways* from past publications of MRTQ. We’ve chosen to return to this name because it brings to mind both recognition of how far we have traveled as well as a vision of the path to come.

You may also notice a slight change in our name. We are now known as Maine Roads to Quality: Early Care and Education Professional Development Network. The choice of the word “network” is an intentional one, meant to be inclusive of all partners in the early care and education professional development system statewide.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *Pathways* and that you will join us in looking forward as we work together to improve the lives of children and families in the state of Maine.

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Maine’s New Youth Development Credential

In response to the need for additional professional development opportunities for youth development practitioners, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Afterschool Network, Maine Roads to Quality, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension have created a new Maine Youth Development Credential (YDC).



To earn the YDC, practitioners must complete 135 hours of required training, prepare a professional portfolio demonstrating mastery of the YDC competencies, distribute and collect approved parent surveys, and be observed by a YDC observer. The cost to apply for the YDC is \$25.

To read the complete YDC Manual, please visit our website at: http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/ycdapp_packet2013.pdf. For more information, contact Pam Prevost, Youth Development Coordinator at pprevost@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5031.

How to reach us...

By phone:
1-888-900-0055 (toll-free)
207-780-5646 (TTY)

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By email:
mrtq-contact@usm.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

Maine Roads to Quality Training Updates

It's that time of year again – back to school and back to TRAINING! A listing of our offerings for Fall 2013 can be found beginning on page 5. Here are a few important updates concerning training through MRTQ that you may find useful:

- As always, registration for all MRTQ training should take place through the Online Training Calendar at <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>.
- [MRTQ's Training Policies](#) can be found on our website by clicking the link or visiting the “Forms and Publications” page.
- MRTQ continues to implement and revise our procedures for approving and monitoring trainers delivering Core Knowledge Training. As we work to complete this important work, more and more training – both online and face-to-face – will become available statewide.
- We are also continuing revisions of the Core Knowledge Training Program and are adding new elective trainings designed to meet your needs.
- MRTQ will be distributing our annual Training Needs Assessment Survey this fall. We encourage you to take the time to complete it and let us know what YOUR professional development needs are.

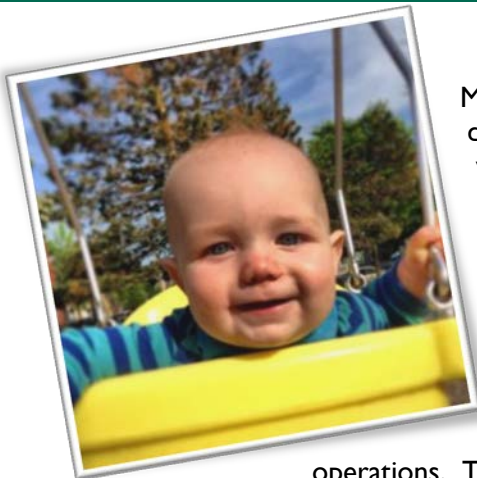
Looking for Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines or Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers?

Due to the high demand for these two trainings, MRTQ has been offering both on an ongoing basis. As of the publication of this newsletter, all offerings are currently full, but new classes are scheduled regularly. All open classes are posted on the Online Training Calendar as they become available.

Our current offerings for these two trainings are all online and will continue to be delivered in that format. Face-to-face classes will resume in 2014.

“Thanks for making my first online class experience awesome. I looked forward to your feedback each week.”

*~ participant in
“Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety”*



Maine's New Director Credential

Maine Roads to Quality has developed a new credential for child care program directors. The credential recognizes that the title of “director” can represent a variety of professional titles, including program director, supervisor, manager, site coordinator, owner/director, executive director, or education supervisor, among others! This credential can be used to support directors working in programs seeking accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

This credential is built upon a set of Director Competencies that include: working effectively with teaching staff and families, using evaluative tools to support continuous quality improvement, and effectively managing program operations. The competencies are linked to fundamental education, experience, and skills that a director will need to demonstrate in their application for this new credential.

The complete manual for the Maine Director Credential can be found on our website at:

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/credentials.htm>. For more information, please contact Pam Gallik, Training Coordinator, at pgallik@usm.maine.edu or 207-485-8726.

Maine Roads to Quality Now Offering On-Site Technical Assistance

What does it mean to receive “technical assistance” or “TA”? It means you can call MRTQ when you have questions or would like assistance with a specific issue in your program. For example, perhaps you are wondering how you could make changes in your environment to better support the children in your program. Or maybe you’d like some guidance on authentic assessment. You might want feedback on how you are implementing Maine’s Early Childhood Learning Guidelines, or you may have just taken a training and want some hands-on assistance bringing your new knowledge into your program.

MRTQ has staff and consultants who will be trained to work with you and any staff you have on these issues, or any others related to early childhood education or youth development. These TA Consultants can talk with you on the phone, connect you with other resources, and even come visit your program for on-site consultation. Our goal is to partner with you to support your work with children and families. Together, we can become collaborative problem-solvers!



For more information, please contact Pam Soucy, Project Assistant, at psoucy@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5258.

What Is the Maine Roads Scholarship Program?

The Maine Roads Scholarship Program awards money to help pay the costs of earning a college degree at any level, from an Associate degree to a Doctorate.



Students must be formally accepted into a credit-bearing early childhood education program in the state of Maine. Examples of eligible degree programs include: Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Child Development, Recreation and Leisure Services with a Special Needs Focus, Social Work with an emphasis on Early Childhood, and Child Care Leadership and Administration. Students who have earned a Bachelor's degree may receive scholarship funds for courses taken toward the 081 or 282 endorsements through the Maine Department of Education.

The application deadline is November 1, 2013 for Spring and Summer 2014 course work. Applications are available on our website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/scholarship.htm>. For more information contact Pam Soucy, Project Assistant, at psoucy@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5258.

New Online Trainings: Moving Up with Quality for ME

Have you joined [Quality for ME](#)? Is your program at a Step 1 or 2, but you’d like to move up to the next Step? MRTQ has developed a series of online trainings designed to guide you, step-by-step, through the process of moving from a Step 1 to Step 2 and Step 2 to Step 3. Each class will guide you through each section of Quality for ME, providing thorough explanations, sample documents, and instructions for creating your Quality for ME portfolio.

Trainings are available for family child care, centers, Head Starts, and school age programs and will begin in mid-October. Please check the Online Calendar for dates and to register.



FALL 2013 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>. Please see page 2 for information about the Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines and Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers trainings.

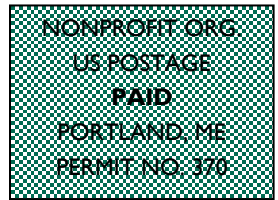
<p>Child Care Leadership Institute I: Building the Foundation for Quality in Early Childhood Programs (30 hours) – Hybrid (online/Portland) ★</p> <p>Participants will learn, in a hands-on format, the intricacies of center directing that have traditionally been learned through trial and error.</p> <p>Dates: begins online 9/4, meets in-class on 9/13 and 9/27, 9:00am-4:00pm each day (continental breakfast and lunch provided), online work to be completed between in-class sessions.</p> <p>Location: Wishcamper Center, University of Southern Maine, Portland</p>	<p>Links to Learning (45 hours) – Face-to-Face (three options) ★</p> <p>This training will provide tools for creating afterschool 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.</p> <p>OPTION 1: Educare Central Maine, Waterville</p> <p>Dates: Tuesdays, September 10th – November 19th; 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>OPTION 2: St. Louis Child Development Center, Biddeford</p> <p>Dates: Thursdays, September 12th – November 21st; 10:00am – 1:00pm</p> <p>OPTION 3: Windham Public Library, Windham</p> <p>Dates: Fridays, September 13th – November 22nd; 10:00am-1:00pm</p>
<p>Working with School Age Children and Youth (30 hours) – Online ★</p> <p>This training covers the aspects of providing child care for 5-13 year old children in a center-based setting or a family child care setting.</p> <p>Dates: September 25th – December 11th</p>	<p>Teambuilding with Staff: The Collective Wisdom of Teams (6 hours) – Online</p> <p>This online 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.</p> <p>Dates: September 18th – October 2nd</p>
<p>Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers (12 hours) – Online ★</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dates: September 18th – October 16th</p>	<p>Stress Happens: Distress or Eustress...Which Will You Choose? (6 hours) – Online</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dates: September 18th – October 2nd</p>

<p>Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (30 hours) – Online </p> <p>This training covers unique aspects of providing child care for infants and toddlers in a home or center-based setting. Focus will be given to establishing the parent/provider relationship, understanding temperament, curriculum, and setting up and maintaining developmentally appropriate environments.</p> <p>Dates: October 2nd – December 18th</p>	<p>Creating Inclusive Youth Development Settings (30 hours) – Face-to-Face </p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dates: Tuesdays, October 8th – December 10th; 10:00am-1:00pm</p> <p>Location: Center for Community Inclusion and Disabilities Studies, Augusta</p>
<p>Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety (18 hours) – Online  </p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dates: October 16th – December 4th</p>	<p>Operating a Family Child Care Business (24 hours) – Online</p> <p>This eight-part curriculum is designed to develop and improve basic business management skills. Learning activities and take-home action steps encourage participants to practice what they learn to improve the bottom line.</p> <p>Dates: October 23rd – December 18th</p>
<p>Early Childhood Education: Theory to Practice (9 hours) – Online</p> <p>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”)</p> <p>Dates: November 6th – December 4th</p>	<p>Linking Assessment to Curriculum in the Preschool Classroom (9 hours) – Online</p> <p>Center-based providers only. This course has been designed to help increase your knowledge and level of comfort with the process of assessment and curriculum planning in the preschool classroom.</p> <p>Dates: November 6th – December 4th</p>
<p>Introduction to Infant Mental Health: Issues and Practice (18 hours) – Face-to-Face </p> <p>This training is an overview covering 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</p> <p>Dates: Saturdays, November 16th & December 7th; 9:00am-3:00pm and Tuesdays, November 19th & December 3rd; 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Location: Auburn-Lewiston YMCA, Auburn</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Director Credential  Youth Development Credential  Infant Toddler Credential I

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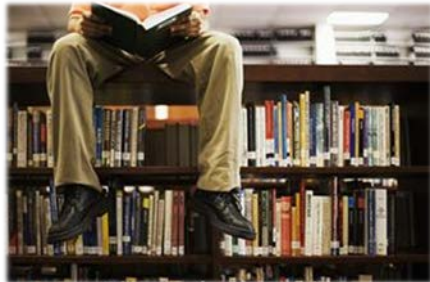
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Maine Roads to Quality's Lending Library

MRTQ makes available to the public a library of books, videos, and resources to support professional development in the early care and education community in Maine.



The list of resources can be found on our website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/library.htm>. You can also contact Eric Norgaard, Project Assistant, at enorgaard@usm.maine.edu or 207-780-4367.

Maine's Infant Toddler Credential I

MRTQ continues to offer the Infant Toddler Credential I to practitioners caring for infants and toddlers.

If you care for infants and toddlers and are looking for a professional development opportunity to enhance your skills, then the IT Credential I could be for you!

For more information, please visit our website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/itcredentials.htm> or contact Debora Schofield at dschofield@usm.maine.edu or 207-228-8144.



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