

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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Updates from the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services

The DLRS is committed to creating and sustaining a culture that values and supports continuous quality improvement that is guided and informed by the values of integrity, openness, quality, safety, trust, and validation. Their mission is to hold licensed providers – and themselves – accountable. To do so, they must assure the consistent application of laws and rules for all providers. There is a distinct value for parents to select a licensed child care provider and that value must be honored by effective regulatory oversight.

One recent development is the identification of resources in the Federal Child Care Development Fund Block Grant to add 16 positions in the Children's Licensing and Investigation Unit. This will effectively reduce caseloads from an average of 180 to 80 to align with national standards and allow for the creation of two new supervisory positions. Additionally, the DLRS will convert its practice of surveying licensed providers once per year to a method called differential monitoring. This process guides the use of resources by determining the frequency and/or depth of monitoring based on the provider's level of compliance with regulations.

The DLRS is developing a publically facing web portal for use by parents and guardians to research licensed providers; the portal will provide information regarding the provider's licensure status and a history of any licensing actions, including access to statements of deficiencies and plans of correction related to each licensing action. The goal is to have the portal operational in 2015.

In the past, when conducting investigations of abuse and neglect, the DLRS informed parents and guardians about the complaint alleging abuse or neglect and what to expect during and after the investigation. In the future, the DLRS will also provide information following the investigation to let parents know whether or not there was identified evidence supporting the allegations.

Deficient practices by licensed providers will now be reviewed by a child care licensing advisory panel to determine whether licensing action is appropriate. If so, the panel will advise the recommended action, including license revocation when appropriate. The panel will include relevant licensing personnel, investigators, DLRS management, as well as representation from the Office of the Attorney General.

Symposium 2014: Have You Registered?

MRTQ is excited to offer our Symposium 2014: Creating Peace and Honoring Diversity! This full-day event will feature thought-provoking discussion and interactive workshops focusing on the themes of peacefulness, inclusion, and culture in our programs.

We will be expanding on this theme as we launch a new curriculum with the same name in the fall. The cost is \$35 per person. Full registration information and the brochure are available on our website at:

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



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New Training! “Environments in Early Care and Education”

This winter Maine Roads to Quality piloted a new 30-hour online training called “Environments in Early Care and Education.” The ten interactive modules cover a wide range of topics with the objective of helping center-based and family child care providers develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Every child care setting has its unique benefits and challenges, and through this training participants have opportunities to explore resources, share strategies and ideas, and consider ways to enhance and strengthen the environments in which they work and play with children.

“I have learned so much in this training I am not even sure where to start. The training was presented in a way that, no matter the physical location or type of child care environment that was participating, they will leave this training with so many new ideas to put in place...anything from organization tips and how to use small spaces effectively, to what safety regulations are.”

“I have learned to reflect on the fact that times have changed and are changing every day ...the children of today do not have the same environment that children of my era had. We have different kinds of childhood memories. The way we teach children is very different.”

Dates: July 30th – October 17th; no assignments due to the week of September 1st

Register through the Maine Early Care and Education Online Training Calendar at:

<http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>.

Maine’s Youth Development Credential: New Cohort Beginning Fall 2014

If you are interested working toward a Youth Development Credential (YDC), including developing competency statements and the portfolio requirements, you are invited to join a cohort of professionals this fall! In order to be part of the cohort, you must have taken at least 60 hours of the trainings required for the YDC, which are:

- *Creating Inclusive Youth Development Settings* (30 hours)
- *Working with School Age Children and Youth* (30 hours)
- *Links to Learning* (45 hours)
- *Foundations in Health, Wellness, and Safety* (18 hours)
- *Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers* (12 hours)

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

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

If you have questions about the YDC, please email Pam Prevost at pprevost@usm.maine.edu or call 207-626-5031.



M.S.Ed. in Early Childhood: Applications Available Now!

The University of Maine at Farmington’s Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood degree program:

- Is designed for early childhood professionals who wish to become exceptional leaders.
- Emphasizes child development, curriculum, and assessment of children birth to age 8, as well as an understanding of family and community context.
- Requires 36 graduate credits over a two- or four-year cycle using online and face-to-face classes (approximately 30% face-to-face and 70% online).
- Requires a technologically current computer, up-to-date web browser, and high-speed internet access.

For more information, please visit

<http://gradstudies.umf.maine.edu/msed/ec/>



SUMMER 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>

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

This training covers the 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.

Dates: June 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, July 1st, 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, and 22nd; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Lever's Day Care, Inc., Lewiston

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: July 16th – August 29th

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: July 2nd – August 1st

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

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: August 6th – 29th

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: July 9th – September 5th

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

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.

Dates: July 16th – August 1st

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Training Registration

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 as early as possible.
- 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!

The Fall Edition of *Pathways* will be available on September 2nd, 2014.

2014 POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Conference: July 21-22 -&- Summer Training Academy: July 23



www.pydi.net

Coming in July – click on the link to register!

The PYDI Purpose:

To enable adults who work with young people to expand their understanding of the methods, theory, and research that support effective youth engagement and overall youth development. We give emphasis to practical strategies shown to result in meaningful change.

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.

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