

# Pathways

## MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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

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### NEW for 2015: Maine's Inclusion Credential and the Revised Inclusive Child Care 30-Hour Training

Maine Roads to Quality has been working in partnership with the University of Maine's Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) on a number of new and revised resources on the topic of inclusion in early childhood.

On **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00pm**, staff from CCIDS will lead a **FREE** webinar about the new Maine Inclusion Credential. This new credential recognizes enhanced knowledge and skills related to quality inclusive practices. The webinar will outline the competency areas for this new credential, as well as the requirements, including training, and the supports available through MRTQ. Please visit the Training Calendar to register for the webinar **by December 12<sup>th</sup>**; more information can also be found on the MRTQ website at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/inclusioncredential.htm>.

One requirement for the Inclusion Credential is for practitioners to complete the newly revised Inclusive Child Care training. The first offering of this 30-hour training will begin in January 2015. (See the training pages of this newsletter for detailed dates and location.) If you have questions about the credential or the training content, please email [ccidsmail@umit.maine.edu](mailto:ccidsmail@umit.maine.edu).

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### Seeking Your Feedback on the *Quality for ME* Revisions

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, Maine's Office of Child and Family Services is seeking recommendations from both parents and child care providers on the upcoming revisions to *Quality for ME*, Maine's voluntary, four-step program quality rating and improvement system.

Over the next few months, there will be focus groups across the state with randomly-chosen child care providers and parents to better understand the benefits and challenges of *Quality for ME*. Because the focus groups are limited, we want to provide an opportunity for all providers and parents to express their thoughts about *Quality for ME*.

You will find a feedback form for providers on the *Quality for ME* website: [www.qualityforme.org](http://www.qualityforme.org). The form for parents is on the Child Care Choices website: [www.childcarechoices.me](http://www.childcarechoices.me).

The information that you provide on either of these forms will be anonymous and will help form recommendations to improve the system. Your input is appreciated!

### Free 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 new knowledge into your program.

MRTQ has trained staff and contracted TA Consultants to work with you. These professionals 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, visit:

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/ta.htm> or contact Pam Soucy at [psoucy@usm.maine.edu](mailto:psoucy@usm.maine.edu) or 207-626-5258.

### MRTQ Welcomes the Maine Afterschool Network!

Maine Roads to Quality would like to welcome the Maine Afterschool Network as a partner project at USM’s Muskie School of Public Service. The Maine Afterschool Network (MASN)



is a statewide network dedicated to Maine’s Afterschool and Youth Development programs.

The MASN serves as a hub for collaborative efforts that will enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable afterschool programming which meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

To learn more about the Maine Afterschool Network’s activities, please visit [www.maineafterschool.org](http://www.maineafterschool.org).

### Statewide Accreditation Support Now Available

Maine Roads to Quality is pleased to announce a unique opportunity to support programs seeking national accreditation through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) through statewide family child care and center based cohorts. Participation in the cohorts will include:

- Financial support for the fees paid to NAFCC or NAEYC
- Monthly cohort meetings (face-to-face or via toll-free conference calls)
- Mini grant funds for approved equipment purchases to help your program meet accreditation standards
- Free enrollment in the MRTQ training “Environments in Early Care and Education”
- On-site one-on-one consultation

**JOHN T. GORMAN**  
FOUNDATION

Accreditation cohorts will run from February 2015 through June 2016. Programs will be expected to meet all the NAEYC accreditation standards or NAFCC benchmarks in this time frame. For more information regarding the cohorts and application procedures visit the MRTQ website at

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/accreditation.htm> or call or e-mail Lee Lingelbach at MRTQ 207-626-5204 [llingelbach@usm.maine.edu](mailto:llingelbach@usm.maine.edu).

Funding for this opportunity is made possible by the John T. Gorman Foundation.

**\*\*Do you operate a before and afterschool program?** Accreditation cohort support for programs seeking accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) is also available through MRTQ. (Note: COA Support will not include the mini-grant funding or “Environments in Early Care and Education” training.) Please use the link above to access the application for this cohort. You can contact Pam Prevost at 207-626-5031 or [pprevost@usm.maine.edu](mailto:pprevost@usm.maine.edu) with questions. **Applications for the COA cohort are due by December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014!**

**WINTER 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

**Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development (30 hours) – Online/Hybrid/Face-to-Face**  

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.

**Four Options:**

**Online Option 1:** January 7<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup> (no assignments during February vacation)

**Online Option 2:** January 8<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup> (assignments WILL BE DUE during February vacation)

**Online Option 2:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup> (no assignments during February vacation)

**Face-to-Face Option:** Tuesdays 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, and 3/17, 6:00-9:00pm; AND Saturdays 2/28 and 3/21, 9:00am-3:30pm

**Location:** St. Louis Child Care Development Center, Biddeford

**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:** January 7<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup> (no assignments during February vacation)

**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:** January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup>; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 2/6 and 2/27; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

**Location:** University of Southern Maine, Portland

**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:** January 24<sup>th</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup>; face-to-face classes on Saturdays, 1/24, 2/28, and 4/11; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

**Location:** Lewiston location TBA

Newly Revised 

**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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

**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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>

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

This training covers the unique aspects of providing 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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>

**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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety (18 hours) – Hybrid**  

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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>; face-to-face classes on Tuesdays 2/10 and 3/10; 6:00-9:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

**Location:** Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington

**Working with School Age Children and Youth (30 hours) – Online** 

This training covers the aspects of providing child care for children and youth ages 5 to 13 years in a child care center, family child care program, or before and after school program.

**Dates:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>

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

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. Every child care setting has its unique benefits and challenges – 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:** February 4<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>

**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 Spring edition of *Pathways* on March 1<sup>st</sup>!

### 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. 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.

**Dates:** February 7<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>; face-to-face classes on Saturdays, 2/7, 2/28 and 3/21; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

**Location:** Maine Discovery Museum, Bangor

### 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. These trainings are designed for programs working to move from a Step 1 to a Step 2 or from Step 2 to Step 3.

**More information and registration can be found on the Training Calendar.**

**Dates for all settings:** February 11<sup>th</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup>

### 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:** February 11<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>

### Curriculum and Development for Preschool Children (30 hours) – Online/Face-to-Face

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.

#### Two Options:

**Online Option:** February 25<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> (no assignments during April vacation)

**Face-to-Face Option:** Saturdays, March 7<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>; 9:00am-3:30pm

**Location:** ACAP, Presque Isle

### Operating a Family Child Care Business (24 hours) – Online

This eight-part curriculum is designed to develop and improve basic business management skills. Learning activities and take-home action steps will encourage participants to practice what they learn to improve their bottom line.

**Dates:** March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>

### 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:** March 18<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 3/27 and 4/10; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

**Location:** University of Southern Maine, Portland



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## Maine Roads to Quality Scholarship Program

Are you thinking of continuing your education in the early childhood field? Not sure where to start? Visit our website for a complete list of contacts at each college.

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



We have awarded \$86,774.00 to 41 applicants for the Fall through Summer 2015 sessions.

For more

information contact Pam Soucy at [psoucy@usm.maine.edu](mailto:psoucy@usm.maine.edu) or 207-626-5258.

## Earn your Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education

The University of Maine Farmington's 36-credit blended delivery M.S.Ed. in Early Childhood program is carefully designed for those who work with children ages birth through age 8. The program emphasizes child development-based curriculum, assessment, and an understanding of the family and community contexts in which these children are educated.

For more information, please email [umfmasters@maine.edu](mailto:umfmasters@maine.edu).

Or visit <http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/>.



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