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RDC INFORMATION

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Changes to Child Care Subsidies

There are several changes happening in July. Effective July 6, child care providers who are enrolled in Quality for Me (QRS) and are on Step 2 or higher will be receiving increased 'quality bumps'. Providers on Step 2 will receive a 5% increase in their voucher subsidies; Step 3 will receive 13%; and providers who are on Step 4 in the Quality for ME system will receive a 25% bump in their voucher subsidies. The effective date for the new rates will be July 6. You may experience a delay in receiving the adjusted payments while DHHS incorporates the new rates into its payment system.

The process for families to apply for vouchers will also change in July. On July 6, the Office of Integrated Access and Support (OIAS) is scheduled to begin processing voucher applications. Child Care Opportunities Resource Development Center is no longer able to provide families with voucher applications. Parents seeking a child care subsidy will be required to bring their financial information to their local Department of Health and Human Services office for determination of financial eligibility. OIAS will determine financial eligibility.

The DHHS will provide information regarding the specifics of the new process prior to its implementation. The target date for this change is July 6 but implementation may be delayed until all data has been entered into the new system. If you haven't already received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services explaining these changes, you should receive notification shortly with the details.

Inside this issue: PG

Quality for ME – Time to Take the Next Step

Changes to Child Care Subsidies	1
Quality for Me-Next Step	1
TA Corner	2
What is CC + ME?	2
On Line Training Calendar	2
RDC Library News	3
CCO MRTQ Trainings	4
State App. & Elective Trainings	5
Maine's IT Credentials	6
Other Trainings	6
Summer Safety	7

More than 40% of eligible providers in Hancock and Washington counties are now in the Quality for ME system (QRS). In addition to the quality bumps for providers who accept vouchers, we anticipate that we will soon be able to announce additional incentives for any provider moving to Step 2 or Step 3. The availability of these incentives will be time limited, so this is the perfect time to consider 'taking the next step'. Child Care Opportunities Resource Development Center (RDC) is available to assist providers in getting on QRS and, once on, to assist you in moving up the quality steps. For information or assistance call the Early Childhood Consultant, Megan London, at the RDC. If you are already in the QRS system, Megan or Faith can provide technical assistance to help you move to the next step.



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION
Early Childhood Division
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RDC NEWS

Technical Assistance (TA) Corner

Childcare providers take great satisfaction in knowing that they contribute to children's healthy growth and development. There are times, however, when even the most skilled and experienced caregiver has questions or concerns. If you find yourself in this position, there are resources available to help you find the answers you need. The RDC staff can help to answer your questions, or support you to make contact with other free resources available to you through Maine's Technical Assistance (TA) Network. One of the resources available is known as Child Care Plus ME (CC + ME).

What is CC + ME?

CC + ME is housed at the University of Maine's Center for Community Inclusion & Disabilities Studies (CCIDS). The focus of the project is to offer support and technical assistance to early care and education providers so that they have the skills and resources they need to educate and care for all children, including children at risk for or diagnosed with special needs (i.e. physical, developmental, medical and/or behavioral needs).

CC + ME project staff work with early care and education providers throughout the state to support the development of quality inclusive programs for children. The goals of the project are to increase access, participation, and stability of children in child care and prevent expulsion by working directly with providers to:

- ◆ Share information about recommended practices in early care and education
- ◆ Share resources and materials
- ◆ Brainstorm creative ideas
- ◆ Model new approaches and techniques
- ◆ Support a caregiver's problem-solving and planning skills

For more information about CC + ME or other resources, contact the Center for Community Inclusion & Disabilities Studies toll free at 1-866-230-4520 (V/TTY). To access technical assistance, please complete the TA request form inserted in this newsletter or download it from our website at <http://www.ccids.umaine.edu/projects/ccme/default.htm>.

CC + ME is funded by the Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Child & Family Services, Early Childhood Division, and Children's Behavioral Health through a State-University partnership with CCIDS.

Maine Early Care and Education Online Training Calendar

Maine Roads to Quality, in partnership with Maine Expanding Inclusive Opportunities and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Division, are happy to bring you the brand-new **Maine Early Care and Education Online Training Calendar**.

Please click the following link to explore the calendar: <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu/public/main.aspx>

The calendar has searchable information about training and course work happening all over the state of Maine. You can search by location, training agency, date, and much more! **The front page shows the Basic Search. An Advanced Search is available by clicking the link on the menu on the left-hand side of the page.**

All early care and education and early childhood special education professionals in Maine will be able to find training and course work on the calendar.

Information is being added rapidly as we are unfolding this project, so please be sure to check the site frequently for even more training information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the RDC or Jenn Wiles, Maine Roads to Quality Statewide Training Specialist, Phone: 207-228-8331, email: jwiles@usm.maine.edu
www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads

RDC LIBRARY NEWS

We have a few new resources for summer fun with school-age children. *Activities for School-age Child Care: Playing and Learning* is published by NAEYC. It has a wealth of activities including ideas for cooking; music and dance; working with wood; arts and crafts; puppets and marionettes; dramatic play; and weaving and quilting. Along with activities, it talks about development during the school-age years, and why having fun is so important to a child's overall growth.

"*I Am Clay*" is an awesome documentary on how children of all ages can explore their creativity with natural clay. This DVD shares information on using clay as a curriculum tool, creative material, and therapeutic medium. Running time is 30 minutes.

Raising Readers Books at Your Local RDC and Select Libraries across the State

The books Maine children receive at birth and well child visits through age 5 provide families with the opportunity to enjoy books together. Childcare providers can also tap into these books as a resource.

Two new collaborations provide expanded access to the Raising Readers (RR) Collections so childcare providers and others can use the books in their curriculum. Annually, the program will send the new collection to each of the eight Resource Development Centers across the state.

Additional access to the books is provided through a partnership with public libraries in the eight counties.

Find the Raising Readers Collections at:

- ◆ Belfast Free Library
- ◆ Camden Public Library
- ◆ Cherryfield Public Library
- ◆ Paris Public Library
- ◆ Skowhegan Free Public Library
- ◆ Strong Public Library
- ◆ Thompson Free Library (Dover-Foxcroft)
- ◆ Waldoboro Public Library

The 2009 and 2010 Raising Readers Collections are now available at the eight RDCs and these eight libraries. The **Featured Links** section at www.raisingreaders.org has information using RR books in your childcare.



DHHS New Early Childhood Quality Initiative Specialist

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has recently hired Kristopher Michaud in the role of Early Childhood Quality Initiative Specialist, within the Early Childhood Division of DHHS.

Kris has worked in the field for 14 years in capacities ranging from teacher, director, supervisor, case manager and consultant in private, public, home and community based settings. These settings range from special purpose, inclusive and collaborative efforts. He has a bachelor's in Psychology and a Masters in Special Education with a Specialization in children birth-five.

Kris's role within the Early Childhood Division is to oversee the implementation, analysis and policy development of the Quality for ME system in the State of Maine; otherwise known as (Quality Rating System). Kris will also help in facilitating the collaborative efforts being utilized to support the growth and progressiveness of the State of Maine's Child Care Quality Rating System. An example of one of these collaborative efforts is your local Resource Development Centers (RDC). Kris can be reached by email at Kristopher.Michaud@maine.gov.

A BIG THANK YOU



From Judy Nevells, Resource and Referral Specialist: I want to say thank you to all the providers that got their provider updates in and the winner of the activity bag is Emily Nesbitt.

And from all the staff at the RDC - A huge thank you to everyone who got the market rate and training surveys in. We will be using the training surveys to develop our training plan for next year.

CCO MRTQ Trainings

Getting Started in Family Child Care (Part A) (6 hrs) This training introduces the aspects of opening up a family child care business in the home. It covers state inspection procedures, and addresses the reasons and importance of becoming a family child care provider. This revised curriculum identifies and provides a full array of resources to aid providers in establishing a successful and organized in-home business. (Required by DHHS for obtaining a family child care license.) Cost: \$10

Friday, July 9, Trainer: Faith Perkins, Time: 8:30am to 3pm, Location: CCO, Ellsworth

Partners in Caring, Families and Caregivers (12 Hrs) 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 covers information about families today, roles and boundary setting and verbal/written communication to reduce potential areas of conflict between families and caregivers. Cost: \$15

Wednesday July 14 to August 4th, Trainer: Hector Sapien, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: BACC, Bucksport

Introduction to Early Childhood Education (9 Hrs) This training covers the historical perspective of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in the U.S., types of early childhood education programs, a survey of major theorists who have contributed to the field, and an overview of common terminology. Cost: \$10.

Cost: \$10.

Tuesdays, August 3 to August 17, Trainer: Faith Perkins, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: CCO Ellsworth

Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines (30 hrs) The Early Childhood Guidelines are written for ages 3-5 and are connected to Maine's K-12 Learning Results. They have been approved by the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. This course will orient you to the Guidelines, help you integrate the Guidelines into your curriculum, and adapt them for children with special needs. Observation and authentic assessment are a key component to individualizing your program and will be central to the course. Class will meet 8 times and there will be homework between classes for a total of 30 hours of training. This course meets the QRS Guidelines. Cost: \$15,

Wednesdays, September 8 to October 27, Trainer: Faith Perkins, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: CCO, Ellsworth

Tuesdays, October 12 to November 30, Trainer: Linda Levesque, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: Machias

Building Peaceable Nonviolent Early Childhood Settings (6 Hrs) This training covers a broad range of topics, including the impact of nonviolent media and toys on children and their play; the influence of a peaceable classroom in counteracting harmful lessons about violence, and how to teach developmentally appropriate conflict resolution skills to children. Cost: \$10.

Wednesday, September 15 & 22, Trainer: Hector Sapien, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: RSU Adult Ed. Bucksport

Weaving Diversity into Our Work with Children and Families (6 Hrs) Participants will explore personal memories, be introduced to concepts of the cultural lens and anti-bias approach, and practice responses using work-based scenarios. Cost: \$10.

Wednesday, September 22 & 29, Trainer: Ruth Sousa, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: WCCC, Calais

Payment, Cancellation and Refund Policy

Child Care Opportunities Resource Development Center requires a minimum of six (6) registrations in order to offer training. Some trainings fill quickly so be sure to submit your registration form as soon as possible. Trainings that are not fully enrolled one week prior to the start date will be canceled.

REFUND Policy: Full refund or credit will be given for any training canceled by Child Care Opportunities. Registrants may receive either a full refund or credit if they withdraw at least one week prior to the training.

CCO MRTQ and State Approved Trainings

Introduction to Infant Mental Health (18 hrs) This training provides specific information on attachments, temperament, relationship building, use of self, principles of infant mental health practice, assessment, identification and support of family strengths. This is one of the requirements for the Infant Toddler Credential I. Cost: \$15,

Saturday, September 11, Time: 8:30am to 3pm, and **Thursday, September 16 & Tuesday, September 21** Time: 6 to 9pm and **Saturday, September 25**, Time: 8:30am to 3pm.

Trainer: Michael Sandberg, Location: CCO Ellsworth

Many Eyes, Many Voices, (6hrs) This training offers high-quality children's books, accompanied by a curriculum guide, designed to stimulate meaningful conversations about differences. Participants take part in related exercises and activities in preparation for using the materials with young children. The training is appropriate for preschool teachers, child care providers, literacy specialists, parents and others who have frequent contact with young children aged five and under. This training is co-sponsored by Maine Humanities Council. Cost: \$10

Thursday, October 21 & 28, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: WCCC, Calais

Peaceable Stories, (6hrs) This is a statewide training program that offers high-quality children's books, accompanied by an Activity & Resource Guide, designed to stimulate meaningful conversations about conflict and peace. Participants take part in related exercises and activities, in preparation for using the materials with young children. This training is co-sponsored by Maine Humanities Council. Cost: \$10.

Monday, September 27 & October 25, Time: 6 to 9pm, Location: Bucksport

CCO Elective Trainings

Curriculum Planning: Science in Action (2.5 Hrs) This workshop will introduce the domain of science, and feature fun ways to incorporate science into your curriculum planning. Participants will engage in active exploration of materials, and leave with ideas and activities to use in their programs. Cost: \$15

Thursday, July 15, Trainer: Megan London, Time: 6 to 8:30pm, Location: **Machias**

Thursday, July 22, Trainer: Megan London, Time: 6 to 8:30pm, Location: **Ellsworth**

Thursday, September 16, Trainer: Megan London, Time: 5:30 to 7:30pm, Location: **Princeton**

The Environment As Teacher (1.5 hrs) The way you organize space and materials influences how children play and interact. This workshop will introduce you to the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS) which can be used for self-evaluation or as an observation tool. You'll get a chance to look at some other family child care settings and share ideas to enhance your environment.

Cost: \$10

Wednesday, August 4, 6-7:30. Trainer: Faith Perkins. Location: Sunflower Daycare, **Calais**.

Eco-Healthy Child Care (1.5 hrs) The **Eco-Healthy Child Care** program helps child care settings to be healthy, safe and green. This training will help providers and parents become aware of potential environmental risks and support simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of children. Providers will be introduced to the voluntary national endorsement program and can be listed on the Eco-Healthy Child Care website. Parents are welcome to join us. **FREE**

Tuesday, July 27, Trainer: Joy Crockett, Time: 5 to 6:30pm, Location: New Beginnings Learning Center, Blue Hill

CDA Cohort: A CDA Cohort group began meeting in Milbridge in May. If you are working on your CDA and would like to participate via e-mail call or email Faith at 667-2467, 257 or faithp@childandfamilyopp.com.

Pre-registration required for all trainings

Maine's Infant Toddler Credentials (ITC)

There is a nationwide movement to professionalize the Infant Toddler field in an effort to ensure that babies are given the highest quality care possible. Research shows that caregivers' professional development is key to ensuring that quality. Maine has worked with the Zero to Three Learning Community to develop a 3 tiered Infant Toddler Credentialing System to ensure that training is available for caregivers who do not have college experience, as well as for those who do.

Infant Toddler Credential 1 – recognized by the Office of Head Start as equivalent to the CDA-IT

ITC 1 No college necessary. The four trainings that are necessary can be taken through any of the Child Care Resource and Development Centers. Child Care Opportunities in Washington and Hancock Counties. They are:

- Caring for Infants, Toddlers and Their Families
 - Foundations in Health, Wellness and Safety
 - Supporting Maine's Infants & Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning & Development
- Introduction to Infant Mental Health: Issues and Practice.

Following the completion of these trainings, a portfolio is developed by the applicant and reviewed by Maine Roads to Quality to determine if competencies have been met, then a packet of parent surveys will be sent out, and a Credential Observer will do an observation, both of which will be reviewed and the award will be made or recommendations for technical assistance will be suggested.

Cost \$25. Application will be on-line by June 1, 2010

Infant Toddler Credential 2

ITC 2 An Associate's degree is necessary to pursue this credential. The coursework in the Associate's degree must include the following courses or their equivalents:

Introduction to Early Childhood Education, Observing and Recording Children's Behavior, and a course on Infants and Toddlers as a prerequisite for ITC 2.

The four specific 3 credit courses to earn the ITC 2 can be taken through Kennebec Valley Community College over ITV on Mondays at 4:00. They will also be offered throughout the state where there is a group of 12 or more interested. The 1 credit seminar course will probably be offered on-line. When courses are completed, the award will be made by MRTQ.

The anticipated timeline for this credential is:

Spring 2010 – ECE 265 Infants and Toddlers I: Social Beings & Ability to Communicate

Summer 2010 – ECE 260 Infant Toddler Seminar – at KVCC

Fall 2010 – ECE 275 Working in Partnership with Families

Spring 2011 - ECE 270 Infants and Toddlers II: Strong Healthy Bodies & Curious Minds

Summer 2011 - ECE 280 Infant Toddler Language and Literacy

NEWS FLASH!!

2nd Class -Summer 2010- July 17 & Aug.7

**Join the Pilot for Maine's
Infant Toddler Credential 2!**

This summer's 1 credit course - ECE 260 Infant Toddler Seminar will be held
at **Kennebec Valley Community College on July 17th and Aug. 7th**

from 10:00-3:00 with 5 hours of on-line work to be completed in between those two on-site dates.

Please enroll in KVCC's *Advanced Certificate in Infant Toddler Caregiving*. Here's the link:

<https://www.kvcc.me.edu/Website/Frames/WebSiteData/prospectivestudents/ApplyOnline/ApplyOnline.aspx>

Community CPR & First Aid Resources

Maine Coast Memorial Hospital (American Heart) **CPR & First Aid Training:**
Contact: Michelle Mahon @ Maine Coast Memorial Hospital (American Heart) ~ **664-5588**



American Red Cross ~ <http://www.redcross.org> ~ **667-4737**
<http://www.americanheart.org>



**Scholarships are available through Child Care Opportunities Resource Development Center
Contact Joy at the Resource Development Center~ 667-2467, ext. 231.**

Other Training and Education Opportunities

Hancock County Cooperative Extension Training Opportunities

Hancock County Cooperative Extension Office is offering three free workshops this fall for all businesses. All the workshops will be presented at the Hancock County Extension office located on Boggy Brook Road in Ellsworth.

Record Keeping Part 1 - September 29th 9 am -12 noon

This workshop will help small business owners understand the importance of keeping good records to enhance their business management skills and improve their chances for success. Participants will explore the components of a successful record keeping system, discuss accounting methods and procedures and identify successful approaches to keeping accurate business financial records.

Record Keeping Part 2 - October 1st 9 am -12 noon

This is a continuation of Record Keeping (Part 1). Participants will explore in depth eight key business records and will apply the information to their personal business needs through practical learning activities.

Pricing Products and Services - October 13th 9:00 am - 12 noon

One key to business success is setting a profitable price for your product or service. This workshop will help owners of a start-up or existing business develop a profitable pricing strategy. Practical case studies will be used to demonstrate various pricing methods.

For more information you can contact Louis Bassano at (207) 667-8212 or (800) 287-1479 (Maine) or louis.bassano@maine.edu

JUNE is: Celebrate National Family Month

Summertime Safety

Summer time is now here. For most children, this means more outdoor activities (swimming, camping, bike riding, etc...) and with the 4th of July celebration, fireworks. For all caregivers, this means being extra vigilant to keep your child safe and healthy. Here are some tips to keep your child safe this summer.

Sun Safety Basics-Use a thick layer of sun block with an SPF of 15 or higher once your child is 6 months old (keep younger kids out of the sun). You should be sure to apply it about 30 minutes before your kids will be out in the sun and reapply it every few hours or even more often if your kids are swimming.

A hat, sunglasses, and loose fitting, full length clothing can also help protect your kids from the harmful effects of the sun.

Insect Repellents-Insects (mosquitoes, gnats, chiggers, ticks, etc.) commonly bite children and can make them miserable. There are many safe and effective insect repellents that you can use to protect your child, including those that use DEET, picaridin, citronella, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or soybean oil. Remember to only use products that are approved for children, follow the manufacturer's instructions and wash off the insect repellents when you return indoors. Remember that insect repellents do not protect against most stinging insects, including wasps, bees and fire ants.

To keep your children safe from insect bites, you can also:

- * Make sure to keep as much of her skin covered with clothing as possible, by using long sleeve shirt, long pants, socks, and a hat.
- * Wear light colored clothing, so as not to attract bugs.
- * Avoid using any scented soaps or other products on your baby, since the fragrances can also attract insects.
- * Consider applying insect repellents to clothing instead of to skin so that it won't be absorbed.
- * Wash off insect repellents as soon as possible.
- * Avoid areas with insects nest.
- * Follow the instructions; including age restrictions on any insect repellent you are considering using.
- * Check child for ticks

For more information go to; <http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/index.html>



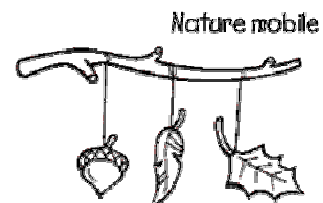
“Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Nature Mobil from *Good Earth Art, Environmental Art for Kids*,

Written by MaryAnn F. Kohl & Cindy Gainer

For more ideas this book is available in our resource library



MATERIALS:

Branch or stick

Natural collectable objects: pebbles, twigs, leaves, apples, pinecone, wildflowers, nuts, mushrooms, string, twine, or thread

PROCESS: Tie collected natural objects to branch or stick with twine, sting, or thread.

Tie twine or sting to branch to hang. (Hint– you may need more than one piece to balance)

VARIATIONS: Try a theme mobile– feathers, wildflowers, pinecones, seaside, woods, autumn, or “My Nature Walk” mobile