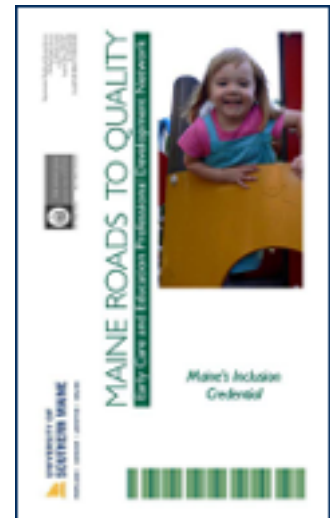


## Professional Development for Maine's Early Childhood Workforce

The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) provides resources and support in the area of early childhood to early childhood professionals and families of children with developmental and related disabilities throughout the state.

As a partner in the **Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN)**, CCIDS is part of a coordinated early childhood professional development system that supports professionals to provide inclusive high quality early childhood programs by the following:

- Ensuring that the current trainings include specific pedagogy for children with disabilities woven throughout the entire curricula.
- Developing and teaching supplemental courses that support early childhood professionals' confidence and competence to care for and teach children with diverse learning styles and needs.
- Creating and field-testing the **Maine Inclusion Credential**, a specialty credential tied to specific competencies, and designed to help professionals build skills, knowledge, resources, and attitudes to promote quality, inclusive practices in their programs.
- Providing access to specialists, including inclusion facilitators and early childhood mental health consultants with the eventual goal of providing universal access to all early childhood programs in the state.
  - ◊ **Inclusion Warm Line** service; telephonic and email access to professionals for advice, problem-solving and help locating resources. Call toll-free 1.844.209.5964 or email [inclusion.warmline@maine.edu](mailto:inclusion.warmline@maine.edu)
  - ◊ **Inclusion and Early Childhood Mental Health On-site Consultation**



CCIDS also provides ongoing professional development support to the MRTQ PDN Technical Assistance System through:

- Training and consultation to the On-site Consultants.
- Training and consultation to the Community of Practice facilitators.
- Joint management of the online technical assistance resource hub.

*A central component of establishing a culture of inclusion within the early childhood system is ensuring that the individual needs, supports, expectations, and goals of children with disabilities are always considered with those of other children. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education (September 14, 2015) Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs.*

For more information, please contact Linda Labas, M.Ed., Early Childhood Coordinator, University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies by email: [labas@maine.edu](mailto:labas@maine.edu) or call 207.623.3925 ext. 13.