



**Child Care Opportunities Resource Development Center**  
 18 Avery Lane/PO Box 648  
 Ellsworth, Maine 04605  
 Phone: (207)667-2467 Fax: (207)667-2212  
 14 Stevens Lane  
 Marshfield, Maine 04654  
 By appointment only  
 Anywhere in Maine: 1-800-834-4378  
[www.childcareopportunities.org](http://www.childcareopportunities.org)

1st Quarter

January 2008

**RDC Information**

**Judy Nevells**

Child Care  
 Resource & Referral  
 Specialist  
 Ext.239  
[judithn@childandfamilyopp.com](mailto:judithn@childandfamilyopp.com)

**Faith Perkins**

Education Specialist  
 Ext. 257  
[faithp@childandfamilyopp.com](mailto:faithp@childandfamilyopp.com)

**Joy Crockett**

RDC Training Coordinator  
 Ext. 231  
[joyc@childandfamilyopp.com](mailto:joyc@childandfamilyopp.com)

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TTY Services available by calling 1-800-963-9490

**QUALITY RATING SYSTEM STARTS IN JANUARY**

Quality for ME is the name of the new Quality Rating System (QRS) that takes effect in January. This is a voluntary rating system for childcare providers. The intent of the system is to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings. Licensed child care centers, family child care, and school-age programs may apply on-line or through paper application. On-line applications can be found at <http://www.qualityforme.org/qcare/login.aspx>. You will need to provide your license # to access this site. The RDC can provide assistance to help you complete your application.

Programs must be licensed/certified for one year prior to applying to Quality for ME, and all providers or staff members must

be members of Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) Registry. Programs that join will be eligible for on-site services and technical assistance to help you through the steps in the system. Faith Perkins will be available to “coach” you through the steps of quality improvement, providing support such as: classroom assistance; training specific to QRS; assistance implementing the Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines and/or the Infant-Toddler Learning Guidelines, and other help that you feel you might need.

Family child care, center-based care, and school age care each has its own set of standards. If you’d like a copy of the standards, or have questions about the system, or want help to apply, call Faith at the RDC.



Child Care Opportunities would like to congratulate the following providers:

- Lori Barbee of Cherryfield for earning an Associate Degree
- Sally Joy of Machias for completing 180 hours of Maine Roads Core Knowledge Training
- Michele Allison, Nadine Hornblower and Kelley Sadosky, of Bucksport Area Child Care Center for moving up the Registry Career Lattice

**If you or someone you know has had a recognition from MRTQ, please let us know so we can congratulate them.**

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**CPR & FIRST AID COURSES**

American Red Cross - 157 High Street Ellsworth, ME 04605, 667-4737				Health Link - Maine Coast Memorial Hospital 248 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605, 667-2474		
DAY	DATE	COURSE	TIMES	CPR Mondays	First Aid Wednesdays	
Wed	1/9/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR	5:30PM -9:30PM	January 14	January 16	
Sat	1/26/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR w/First Aid First Aid/CPR Challenge Exams	9:00 AM -5:00 AM BY APPOINTMENT	March 10	March 12	
Wed	2/6/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR	5:30PM -9:30PM	All classes begin at 5:30 pm in the MCMH Classroom Cost is \$30.00 per class or \$55 for both (savings of \$5.00) Classes Fill Early		
Sat	2/23/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR w/First Aid First Aid/CPR Challenge Exams	9:00 AM -5:00 AM BY APPOINTMENT			
Wed	3/5/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR	5:30PM -9:30PM			
Sat	3/8/2008	Adult/Infant/Child CPR w/First Aid First Aid/CPR Challenge Exams	9:00 AM -5:00 AM BY APPOINTMENT	<b>Other numbers:</b>		
				<b>Type of Class</b>	<b>Instructor/Location</b>	<b>Phone#</b>
				Amer. Heart	Sue Dow-WA County	483-3823
				Amer. Heart	Sally Taylor-WA	255-6258



**Joy Crockett will be joining the RDC starting January 2nd as the Training Coordinator.**

Joy brings a wealth of experience to the position. She's a former FCC Provider, and has been a HomeStart coordinator and a manager for a center-based program. We know you'll enjoy getting to know her.

**INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL**

For several years now the state has been developing systems for infants, toddlers, and their caregivers. The Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development, which we just started offering this fall, is one of the tools we have and is a great resource for all of us working with this wonderful age group. Now there is a new opportunity available for people working in this field – an Infant Toddler Credential system. There are three levels to this credential system and many of you may already be nearly ready for the first level – IT Credential 1. Requirements for this credential are 96 hours of course work. Levels 2 and 3 both involve college courses and an AS or BS degree.

**Infant Toddler Credential 1:**

MRTQ training:

- Caring For Infants, Toddlers & Their Families (30 hours)
- Foundations of Health, Wellness & Safety (18 hours)
- Supporting Maine's Infant & Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning & Development (30 hours)
- Maine Infant Mental Health Association: Introduction to Infant Mental Health (18 hours)

There are alternative options for some of the training. For instance:

Those of you with an Infant-Toddler CDA can substitute your CDA for both the MRTQ courses "Caring For Infants, Toddlers, & Their Families" and "Foundations of Health, Wellness & Safety"

Those of you who have taken the 2-credit Infant Toddler Institute at UMF may substitute those credits for the MRTQ course "Caring for Infants, Toddlers, & Their families"

**The application for this credential will be ready in January. Applicants will need to document that they have met the training requirements through certificates or their MRTQ transcript and submit a portfolio of evidence of competence that includes the Portfolio activities in the MRTQ training binders. The credential application is expected to cost \$25 and be valid for 5 years.**



## Maine Child Care Leadership Institute I

Child Care Center Director 5-Day Training

January 31, February 1 & February 27, 28, 29, 2008

UMA New Student Technology Center, Room 218 & Women Work & Communities Conference Room

Facilitators: Judy Reidt-Parker & Hector Sapien

## THE BIGGER PICTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IN MAINE

As more people, including policy makers, understand the importance of early brain development, they are becoming more interested in what is happening to young children prior to their entry into kindergarten. In Maine that has led to two recent events - - The Governor's Summit on Early Childhood, which was held Nov. 29 and 30 at the Samoset Resort in Rockland and to the legislatively-mandated Commission to Develop a Strategic Priorities Plan for Maine's Young Children.

The summit was geared toward business and community leaders. About 200 leaders identified by the state's United Ways, were invited to hear three experts speak about the importance of investing in early childhood education. A report of the summit will be issued later and the United Way community teams will be taking action to improve early childhood systems in our region and state. (Stay tuned for more information).

The Commission will be issuing its report to the legislature when it convenes in January and will be

calling for the creation of a new Office of the Child Advocate. This office will be responsible for evaluating the State's Early Childhood system. In addition the commission is recommending establishing the Children's Growth Council which will take the place of several different committees and councils that already exist in state government that are developing, maintaining and evaluating plans for early childhood. For more information about the Commission, go to <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/planformechild.htm>.

And finally, family child care providers in Maine have voted to form a union in conjunction with the Maine State Employees Association, a local unit of the Service Employees Union International located in Washington, D.C. Promoted by the Maine Family Child Care Association, the union vote was taken in October. Next steps are to be recognized as a legal bargaining unit by the state legislature and Governor John Baldacci. It is not known what the cost of dues will be or whether providers will be required to join the union or not. Proponents of unionizing believe that a union will give family child care providers a voice in state rules regarding child care. Opponents say that unionization will raise the price of child care and make quality child care unaffordable.



## SAVE THIS DATE!

*Bi-County Early  
Care Conference*

*Saturday, April 12, 2008*

*Fabulous Presenters, Exhibitors & Vendors*

*Where: Sumner Adult Education, Sullivan High School, Sullivan*

*Watch for pink brochure in March*

*You will not want to miss this conference. The conference committee is committed to making sure this conference is one of the best ones yet.*

# Hancock County Training Information

## *MRTQ Trainings in Hancock County for 2008!*

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>NEW! NEW! Supporting Maine's Infants &amp; Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning &amp; Development</b>	Jan 9-Mar 5 (Wednesdays)	Ellsworth	6-9pm
This curriculum is designed to help participants use these new guidelines. Participants will use various tools & strategies to engage in observation, to conduct authentic assessment, & to plan curriculum for this amazing age group.			
<b>Foundations of Center-Based Care</b>	February 9th (Saturdays)	Bar Harbor	9-3:30
This training serves as a basic overview of working in center-based early childhood programs. Topics include the role & requirements of the early childhood education, the needs of your children, and components of quality early childhood programming.			
<b>Getting Started in Family Childcare</b>	March 8 (Saturday)	Ellsworth	9-3
Introduces the aspects of opening a family child care business in the home. It covers state certification procedures, health and safety practices, working with families, child development, community and professional resources, and business and professional development.			
<b>Caring For Infants, Toddlers &amp; Their Families</b>	Apr 8-June 17 (Tuesdays)	Ellsworth	6-9pm
Learn about the unique aspects of providing childcare for their amazing age group! Focus will be on establishing partnerships with parents, understanding the concepts of attachment & primary care giving, and planning curriculum within the context of child temperament, learning style, & family culture.			

**All classes are \$15. Call our provider specialist to register. Looking to turn these classes into a degree? Call Faith, and she'll set you on your way!**

## **Elective Trainings** More are being planned...Look for flyers in the mail...Want a specific training? Let us know

**January 8th & 15th** - Sign Language I with Mary Ellen Martel  
@ Harbor House in Southwest Harbor 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person

**January 29th** - Breathing Easy: Helping Families Move Towards Tobacco-Free Lives  
@ Ellsworth 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person

**February 11th** - Staying Centered: Mindfulness Embodied with Sara Pierce  
@ Ellsworth 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person

**March 27th** - Different Approaches To Learning: Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, High Scope, Waldorf  
@ Ellsworth 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person

Pre-registration is required for all trainings.  
Please try to register at least 10 days before the class.

### RECALLS

Check this website for the latest toy recalls:  
[www.healthytoys.org](http://www.healthytoys.org)

### Is it time to renew your CDA?

A CDA credential is valid for 3 years from date of award, after which it can be renewed in 5 year increments. For more information call Faith @ 667-2467.

# Washington County Training Information

## *MRTQ Trainings in Washington County for 2008!*

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Starting Your Core Knowledge Portfolio</b> Introduces the Core Knowledge Training Program, its uses in professional development and how the portfolio can transform training into college credit. Basic information includes procedures for documenting learning, orientation to the Maine Roads Professional Registry, and tracking hours of training.	January 15	Machias	6-9pm
<b>NEW! NEW! Supporting Maine's Infants &amp; Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning &amp; Development</b> This curriculum is designed to help participants use these new guidelines. Participants will use various tools & strategies to engage in observation, to conduct authentic assessment, & to plan curriculum for this amazing age group.	March 5-April 30 <small>(Wed)</small>	Princeton	6-9pm
<b>Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines</b> This curriculum is designed to help participants use the Early Childhood Learning Guidelines to assist their efforts in improving early childhood practices in their work with young children.	Mar26 - May21 <small>(Tuesdays)</small>	Machias	6-9pm
<b>Getting Started in Family Childcare</b> Introduces the aspects of opening a family child care business in the home. It covers state certification procedures, health and safety practices, working with families, child development, community and professional resources, and business and professional development.	April 10 & 17	Machias	6-9pm

**All classes are \$15. Call our provider specialist to register.  
Remember you aren't enrolled until we have received payment!**

## **Elective Trainings** More are being planned...Look for flyers in the mail...Want a specific training? Les us know.

- January 24th** - Foundations of Motor Development with Faith Perkins  
@ East Machias 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person
- February 27 & March 5** - Peaceable Stories (Maine Humanities) with Linda Levesque  
@ Machias 6-9pm  
Cost is \$15 per person
- March 3rd** - Different Approaches to Learning - Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, High Scope, Waldorf  
@ Machias 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person
- March 13th** - Self-Regulation: Helping Children Find a Way to Calm with Karen Sjostrom Hedger  
@ Milbridge 6-8pm  
Cost is \$15 per person

Pre-registration is required for all trainings.  
Please try to register at least 10 days before the class.

## Continuing Education, Courses & Resources

### HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

Hancock County Higher Education Center, Call 1-800-696-2540 or visit <http://www.maine.edu/ellsworth>.

University of Maine Systems on-site, online and ITV course listings. FMI, call 1-877-868-7000 or visit their website at [www.learn.maine.edu](http://www.learn.maine.edu).

University of Maine at Augusta. FMI, call 1-877-UMA-1234 or visit their website at [www.uma.maine.edu](http://www.uma.maine.edu).

University of Southern Maine on-site, online and ITV course listings. FMI, call 1-800-787-0468 or visit their website at [www.usm.maine.edu/cce](http://www.usm.maine.edu/cce).

Washington County Community College, Call 1-800-210-6932 or visit their website at [www.wccc.me.edu](http://www.wccc.me.edu).



### Spring 2008 Birth—5 (081) Certification Courses

Two courses in Early Childhood Education which partially fulfill requirements for the new Birth to Five certification 081 are offered in Bath in Spring Semester, 2008

#### **ECH 336 Development of Mathematical Concepts in Young Children (4 credits)**

Fridays 5:00- 8:15pm & Saturdays 8:30-3:00

January 25/26 - February 15/16 - March 7/8 - March 28/29 - April 18/19

#### **ECH 477 Topics in Early Childhood Education "The Perfected Child" (4 credits)**

Wednesdays 5:00 - 8:15pm

January 23 - February 6 - February 27 - March 12 - March 26 - April 9 - April 30 (last internet class is May 7)

**To Register - Request UMF Registration form from Betty Beach ([bbeach@maine.edu](mailto:bbeach@maine.edu)) or Betsy Squibb ([squibb@maine.edu](mailto:squibb@maine.edu))**

## Lending Library

### **Did you know? We have all the current magazine subscriptions for you to borrow!**

- ~Mailbox
- ~Child Health Alert
- ~Parent
- ~American Baby
- ~Zero To Three
- ~School Age Notes
- ~Child
- ~Family Fun
- ~Scholastic Instructor
- ~Working Mother
- ~Child Care Exchange
- ~Childhood Education
- ~Early Childhood Today
- ~Infants & Young Children

- Don't forget that Buckle Bear has a new home! You can check him out of the Library!
- We have loads of books on music, crafts, discipline, behavior, special needs, fire safety, and more!
- Did we mention Videos? Call if you are looking for any specific topics...I bet we have it!
- Look for a complete library list in your packet at the Bi-County Conference

***Did you know we can  
help make  
arrangements for  
sending, or dropping  
off resources to you?***



JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT!



## Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

With the Winter Olympics right around the corner here are several games so your gang can join in the fun! There's no need to get cold feet about spending a winter day outdoors. Instead, bundle up and follow your kids to the nearest drift for a snow pile of fun. .

### FLAG IN A SNOW STACK

Tie a white cloth to the end of a short stick or around the bowl of a wooden spoon. Then, give each child a chance to hide it by staking it anywhere within a predetermined set of boundaries. Keep track of how long it takes for the rest of the group to find it. Whoever hid the flag that takes the longest time to spot wins the game.

### HAT TRICK

Once you've built a plump, frosty snowman to stand sentry in your front yard, make a game of toping him off in style. Take turns trying to land a hat on his head by throwing it Frisbee style from 10 or so feet away.

### GET ON A ROLL

Pair up for a contest in which the object is to finish with the biggest snowball. The contest ends when the teams can no longer roll their entries or when you run out of snow.

### ICE BOWLING

While we love to skate, we're not such fanatics that we ignore one of the ice's most fun forms--that of a gigantic bowling lane. On the night before the party, we fill ten (or more) plastic quart or liter bottles and several gallon jugs with water. We add a bit of food coloring to each, then put them out to freeze. To play, we set out the quart containers as bowling pins, back up ten feet or so, and use the frozen gallon jugs to knock down the quart jugs.

### BROOMBALL

One of our favorite ways to introduce young skaters to the thrill of hockey is through broomball--a version of ice hockey that you play using brooms and a rubber ball instead of sticks and a puck. This game is best played with a ball that's about the size of a bowling ball and very light and bouncy. With a good wallop, you can send the ball ricocheting off knees and arms--and you don't have to worry about anyone getting hurt. Set this game up like a hockey game, complete with snow-boot goals (about six feet apart) and an equal number of players on each team (six per team works well). Start the game with a face-off at center ice.

### CRYSTAL LANTERNS

To make one, you'll need water, a large metal mixing bowl, a plastic yogurt container, a cupful of small stones or coins and, of course, freezing temperatures.

Start by having your child pour a couple of inches of water into the mixing bowl. Place it outdoors to freeze. Fill the yogurt container with the stones or pennies, then center it on the ice in the bowl. Slowly pour more water into the bowl so that it nearly reaches the rim of the smaller container, and let it freeze solid. To remove the lantern from its mold, run warm water on the outside of the bowl and the ice should slip out. Next, dump out the contents of the inner container and pour in warm water to loosen it. Remove the container and place a votive candle in the opening. With the darkness coming early, and earlier...this is fun....be safe and keep it up away from the kids!

### COLORED SNOW!

There is simply no funner:) thing than to make snow pictures! Take water in a spray bottle...old spray butter containers work, as do dish detergent bottles, add washable paint until you get a great color...and let the kids go!

# Let It Snow! Fun Things To Do With Kids check out page 7!

Inside this edition:  
Hancock & Washington County Training Calendars  
New Elective Trainings Have Been Scheduled!  
Infant/Toddler Credential  
New Date For The Bi-County Early Care Conference  
AND MUCH MORE!



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