

## **Definition of Professional Development**

Professional development is facilitated teaching and learning experiences that are transactional, collaborative and designed to support the acquisition of professional knowledge, skills, ethics/values and dispositions as well as the application of this knowledge in practice to benefit all children and families

## **Guiding Principles for Early Childhood Professional Development**

1. Professional development is comprehensive, coordinated, and responsive to the diverse needs of early childhood professionals serving all children birth – 12 and their families
2. Professional development provides opportunities and supports to help early childhood professionals at all levels, including practitioners, professional development instructors, mentors and technical assistance consultants progress along diverse career pathways as defined by the career lattice
3. Professional development offers opportunities that strengthen the capacity of early childhood professionals to support children's development and learning through high quality, developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate instruction that is child-centered, inclusive, and family-focused
4. Professional development is relationship-based, culturally sensitive, and uses a strength-based approach that focuses on the individual goals of early childhood professionals
5. Professional development is accessible through a variety of formats, locations, times, and accommodates the learning needs of the profession, including individual learning abilities, technology usage, and geography
6. Professional development stimulates individual learners to construct their own knowledge and develop a professional philosophy of early childhood practice
7. Professional development supports the application of early childhood education theory and professional philosophy to practice
8. Professional development aligns with standards and evidence-based practice.
9. Professional development promotes lifelong learning through ongoing inquiry, reflection and action research
10. Professional development uses data to assess and revise delivery to improve the content and format that is offered.