

REACHING FOR THE STARS

Planning for Professional Development

The quality offered in a family child care home depends on the knowledge and skills of the people who work with children. Everyone who works with young children and their families needs a basic understanding of child development and early education. To provide children with the best, it is important that we strive for the best in ourselves, personally and professionally. An individualized educational professional development plan serves as a map. (Vermont Early Childhood Work Group)

Think about yourself as an early childhood professional:

- Evaluate your current level of knowledge. What are your personal strengths? What areas do you want to improve?
- Identify educational needs: What is your past educational experience: What kinds of training or education do you need?
- Determine professional development that can meet those needs. Where will you look for/find it?
- Identify potential career paths. What opportunities do you want to pursue? (CDA, Certificate of Mastery, AA, BA, etc.) How? When?

Reaching for the Stars Approved Professional Development

Professional development (PD) is an ongoing process used to improve the knowledge and skills to best serve children and families. PD must be related to position responsibilities.

- Job-related is directly associated with the content areas of the Oklahoma Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners and/or the Oklahoma Core Competencies for Out-of-School Time Practitioners.
- Formal PD is two or more clock hours from an Oklahoma Professional Development Registry (OPDR)-approved training organization or OPDR-approved college credit hours.
- Informal PD is less than two clock hours from an OPDR-approved training organization, any number of clock hours from and OPDR non-approved training organization, and any training from electronic media such as videos, DVDs, or webinars.
- No more than six hours of informal PD may be counted in required training hours per Professional Development Ladder (PDL) certification.
- One college credit hour is equal to 16 clock hours of PD.

Note: General education coursework such as English Comp I, Biology, Math, History, etc., does not count as approved annual PD for Stars.

Primary Caregiver PD Requirements:

At initial Star approval:

- must have 2 college credits in management, child development, or early

childhood education or 20 clock hours of job-related PD within the last 12 months or within current PDL certification AND

- completed QRIS Orientation

When a new primary caregiver is hired:

- must have 2 college credits in management, child development, or early childhood education or 20 clock hours of job-related professional development within the previous 12 months or within current PDL certification AND
- complete QRIS Orientation within 90 calendar days of hire

Ongoing PD: must have 2 college credits in management, child development, or early childhood education or 20 clock hours of job-related PD per PDL certification.

Assistant Caregiver PD Requirements:

After being employed for 12 months, assistant caregivers must have 2 college credits in child development, early childhood or school age education or 20 clock hours of job-related PD per PDL certification.

Reference:

Development Plan for Early Care and Education. June 2001. The Professional Preparation and Development Committee of the Vermont Early Childhood Work Group