

# **Info Sheet:** Montana Early Care and Education Career Development MSU Early Childhood Project                      Bozeman, Montana                      Fall 2010

## **Professional Development Specialist (PDS) Directory**

### **What is the PDS Directory?**

The directory is a record of approved Professional Development Specialists in Montana. It is managed by The Early Childhood Project (ECP). In July 2010 the ECP launched the online application process for Professional Development Specialists which is embedded in The Montana Practitioner Registry. A framework that outlines the qualifications for Professional Development Specialists was developed over a two year period that involved trainers and instructors who were currently facilitating early childhood professional development in Montana. The process included focus groups, a survey, and a forum to collect input from a wide variety of professionals in the field. After extensive review and feedback, a final framework was adopted.

### **What is the purpose?**

The PDS Directory is essential to continuous improvement in Montana of the professional development system that supports high quality in early childhood programs. Current knowledge in early childhood and experience in adult learning are critical when providing instruction.

### **Who is eligible?**

Individuals who are interested in facilitating professional development for early care and education practitioners in Montana. As of January 1, 2011 all applications for training approval through the ECP must identify an approved PDS or a Specialty Trainer on the application. All approved training events open to the public are posted on the Statewide Training Calendar at [www.mtecp.org](http://www.mtecp.org). The three types of PDS require individuals to be current at specific levels on The Practitioner Registry/Career Path.

### **What are the types of Professional Development Specialists/Trainers on the framework?**

All Professional Development Specialists must submit a resume, two references and a signed NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct: Supplement for Early Childhood Adult Educators, as part of the application.

#### **PDS I:**

- Requires the individual to be at least a current Level 4 on The Registry, have completed specific adult learning training or an equivalent, facilitated 12 hours of early childhood training, and must have at least 10 hours of supervised training with an Oversight Trainer who is a PDS II or III.

## **PDS II**

- Requires the individual to be at least a current Level 5 on The Registry, have completed specific adult learning training or an equivalent, facilitated 30 hours (or two semester college credits) of early childhood training or education.

## **PDS III**

- Requires the individual to be at least a current Level 6, have completed specific adult learning training or an equivalent, facilitated 60 hours (or four semester college credits) of early childhood training or education.

## **Specialty Trainers:**

- This designation applies to professionals with expertise that has required them to receive specific education and training. Examples of Specialty Trainers are nutritionists, occupational therapists, fire fighters, etc. They do not need to apply to be an approved trainer to offer training to early care and education practitioners.

## **How do I apply?**

The first step is to apply to be on The Practitioner Registry. The application to become an approved PDS is part of The Practitioner Registry application. To identify that you would like to also apply to be an approved PDS click on “Personal”. Next, click on “Edit Personal” and check the box next to “Trainer”. Please visit [www.mtecp.org](http://www.mtecp.org) and log in to your account or create an account, as an individual, with The Early Childhood Project.

If you have *any* questions or need help, please contact the ECP. The PDS framework is available on our website under the Trainer Directory link.



Montana Early Childhood Project

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