



A Definition of Professional Development

Professional development is facilitated teaching and learning experiences that are continual, transactional and designed to support the acquisition of professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions as well as the application of that knowledge in practice. Professional development should reflect a continuum of learning and be designed to prepare individuals to work with and on behalf of culturally, linguistically and ability diverse young children, their families and their communities.

All professional development should:

- Build the cultural competence of each and every early childhood professional
- Respect, value and respond to each and every learner's unique frame of reference, including who they are and the children, families, programs and communities they serve
- Build in meaningful ways on the experiences and professional goals of each early childhood professional
- Reflect and support the use of evidence-based practices
- Incorporate principles of adult learning to support self-directed, experiential learning that is highly relevant to practice
- Promote linkages among research, theory, and practice and support the use of practices that are developmentally, culturally and individually appropriate
- Include resources to ensure access, equity and inclusion
- Align with professional competencies, standards and credentials
- Support and align with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS).