



Take Charge of your Professional Development

How can you ensure that the seminar/conference/workshop you register for will benefit your professional development? Try asking yourself these questions beforehand:

- **Do you have any “gaps” in your professional development that need to be filled?**
Some possible examples are that you need to fulfill your inclusion training hours, or need more hours toward a certification or advanced degree.
- **Does the training count toward a Gateways Credential?**
If you are interested, inquire with the event planner and/or look on the Gateways Statewide Online Training Calendar to see if the training shows a gold-colored circle. You can check the search box on the online training calendar to see if the training may meet the requirements for a Gateways Credential.
<http://registry.ilgateways.com/find-trainings>
<http://www.ilgateways.com/careerdevelopmentcredentials.aspx>
- **Does the training count toward CEUs or CPDUs?**
Check with the event organizer to see if the training has been approved for these credit options.
- **Is there a specific new skill you are interested in learning?**
For example, do you want to learn how to design a PowerPoint presentation, enrich your Science area, improve observation skills, etc.
- **What stage of training are you seeking? Beginner? Advanced?**
You may be advanced in your knowledge of child development but need a beginner class on accounting skills or documentation.
- **Do you want to participate in the Quality Rating System (QRS)?**
Look for QRS-related trainings. You may also inquire with the event planner and/or look on the Gateways Statewide Online Training Calendar to see if the training shows a blue-colored circle. You can check the search box on the online training calendar to see if the training may meet the requirements for Approved QRS.
<http://www.inccrra.org/qrs-training-for-providers>
<http://registry.ilgateways.com/find-trainings>
- **Are you interested in moving up a Star Level for the Quality Rating System?**
Look for QRS trainings.
<http://www.inccrra.org/qrs-training-for-providers>
- **Is the content focus for family child care, centers, infant/toddler, 3-5 or school-age/youth development?**
Look on the Gateways Statewide Online Training Calendar using one as your keyword.
<http://registry.ilgateways.com/find-trainings>
- **What outcomes are you seeking? Is the training applicable to your needs?**
- **Will your individual learning style be addressed? What various methods for learning are used?**
- **Is the location and time a good fit for you?**