



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 101

Before writing your professional development goals for your Professional Development Plan, consider the following guiding principles:

## **What is professional development?**

Professional development is attending classes, events, study groups and other learning opportunities for the purpose of enhancing the work we do with young children, families, and each other.

## **Why is professional development essential for child care?**

Participating in professional development helps to continuously improve your skills and the quality of early learning experiences for young children. It also helps you meet state requirements and achieve your own professional and program goals.

## **How do I make my professional development meaningful?**

### **1. Ask key questions to identify your professional development goals.**



- What are my professional goals and interests?
- What areas do I need to know more about?
- What have others recommended for me?

**2. Create a timeline for your professional development plan that is realistic and fulfills state requirements.**

**3. Identify training opportunities from trusted sources like Action for Children that align with your goals and meet your needs!**

Learn more about professional development trainings at Action for Children!  
Visit [www.actionforchildren.org/PD](http://www.actionforchildren.org/PD), email [PD@actionforchildren.org](mailto:PD@actionforchildren.org),  
or contact your Action for Children Technical Assistance coach.