

## **Professional Development in Head Start – Part 2: Why PD is Important Begin**

I begin with the question, “What is professional development?”

Professional development is the continuous process of acquiring new knowledge, skills, and abilities, along with experience and competencies that relate to one’s profession, job responsibilities, or work environment. It encompasses all types of facilitated learning opportunities, ranging from pursuing and obtaining the CDA, college degrees to formal coursework, conferences, and informal learning that takes place while you are working. This is true whether you are a teacher, family service worker or other staff person.

Strengthening the early childhood workforce, birth to five, happens to be one of The Office of Head Start (OHS) priorities, and is a priority and goal that many of you are also realizing through creating and participating in well-planned and coordinated professional development systems.