

# **Section 3:**

# **Additional Resources**

# **and Information**

## **Importance of Joining Professional Organizations**

You will find that many professional organizations sponsor meetings that include sessions designed to improve the expertise of professionals working with infants and toddlers. These groups offer professional development opportunities of various kinds, including workshops or more formal sessions in which individual presenters share ideas. Some professional organizations focus on specific subject areas and specific categories of learners. Joining a professional group gives you opportunity to meet people with shared interests. Members often get productive new ideas from even casual conversations with others in the group.

Many professional organizations sponsor the publication of journals that feature excellent, practical how-to-do-it articles. Subscribing to professional magazines like *Journal of Early Intervention*, *Zero to Three*, or *Young Children* will also give you advice and information from other early childhood professionals.

Many national organizations represent the general interests of those who work with young children with special needs. These organizations include:

### **The Council for Exceptional Children (CDC)**

This is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. CDC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides continual professional development, advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

### **The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

This organization is the world's largest early childhood education organization with a national network of state, local, and regional affiliates. By joining this organization, you will connect with 100,000 educators who want to work together to ensure young children make the most of their early years.

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

### **Zero to Three**

Zero to Three is a national nonprofit multidisciplinary organization that advances its mission by informing, educating, and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers. Zero to Three's mission is to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families.

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

## **Professional Resources in Rhode Island**

Professional development is designed to enhance your school and work growth opportunities. Professional development can be achieved through training, workshops, research, and professional mentoring. The State of RI offers multiple conferences as well as individual events around specific themes. Workshops are offered by several agencies. Review this list of resources for more information and agencies to contact.

### **Rhode Island Resources:**

The Arc; for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

[www.hearc.org](http://www.hearc.org)

Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island

401-728-7920

[www.preventchildabuse-ri.org](http://www.preventchildabuse-ri.org)

Ready to Learn Providence (R2LP)

401-490-9960

[www.r2lp.org](http://www.r2lp.org)

Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC)

401-398-7605

[www.riaeyc.com](http://www.riaeyc.com)

Rhode Island Head Start Association

401-351-2750

[www.riheadstart.org](http://www.riheadstart.org)

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

401-270-0101 or 1-800-464-3399

[www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College

401-456-8072

<http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/index.html>

### **National Resources:**

National Association for the Education of the Children (NAEYC)

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

National Education Association (NEA)

[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

Zero to Three

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)