

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Through the quality assurance element of a professional development system, States and Territories ensure the quality of professional development and measure achievement. Quality assurance activities are vital to monitor, approve, and evaluate professional development offerings and the overall professional development system. Quality assurance strategies include establishing qualifications for trainers and standards for trainings; conducting participant, activity, and system evaluations; engaging diverse advisory groups; monitoring adherence to licensing and other regulations or program requirements; and investments in local, State, or national accreditation.

Discussion Topics

- 1) Meaning of quality assurance: What does this mean in our context?
 - Are there mechanisms to ensure the quality of training and education activities provided to early childhood professionals?
 - Are there mechanisms to evaluate specific professional development components?
 - Are there mechanisms to evaluate the overall professional development system?

- 2) Themes, ideas, and questions about quality assurance:

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3) Our current activities and roles related to quality assurance:

4) Possible activities and roles for the future related to quality assurance:

- What are the gaps and needs?
- How can we collaborate to meet the needs?

5) How do your group's ideas and suggestions connect with the other professional development system elements?

- Include any ideas about how to engage the community in these efforts.
