NAEYC Accreditation: The Mark of Quality

Are you choosing child care for your son or daughter? Are you frightened or sad about the thought of someone else taking care of your child? Many families struggle with the decision to enroll their children into child care, and once the decision is made, choosing the right program is just as hard.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) can help parents feel good about the child care, preschool, and kindergarten programs they choose. More than 20 years ago, NAEYC created an accreditation system to improve the quality of education and care provided in programs for young children. NAEYC Accreditation has become the mark of quality, helping parents find the best possible early childhood experience.

“I think one of the greatest advances to child care was the creation of the NAEYC Accreditation system, which has helped so much to raise the quality of programs.”

—T. Berry Brazelton, MD

Learn More About NAEYC and NAEYC-Accredited Programs

You want to make the right choice for your child. When you choose a child care program accredited by NAEYC, you know you’re choosing a program that is committed to meeting the highest standard in early care and education.

To learn more or to find a program accredited by NAEYC:

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
1509 16th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-1426
202.232.8777 • 800.424.2460
www.naeyc.org www.rightchoiceforkids.org
NAEYC #538

Printing of this brochure provided by

IBM Global Work/Life Fund

NAEYC Accreditation: The Right Choice for Kids
You have high expectations, and so do we.

You’re responsible for the health and development of a very important and special person—your child. NAEYC has high expectations too. When you choose an accredited program you’re joining a center that meets those high expectations.

Perhaps you’ve created a checklist of the characteristics that define a good child care program—infants are laid down on their backs to nap, toddlers are taken outside for well-supervised play, and preschoolers are learning about shapes and solving puzzles. The list is endless. NAEYC Accreditation tells you you’re getting all this and more.

NAEYC-accredited programs must

- Promote positive relationships for all children and adults to encourage each child’s sense of individual worth.
- Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
- Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches.
- Provide ongoing assessments of a child’s learning and development and communicate the child’s progress to the family.
- Promote the nutrition and health of children and protect children and staff from illness and injury.
- Employ and support a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children’s learning and development and to support families’ diverse needs and interests.
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with each child’s family.
- Establish relationships with and use the resources of the community to support achievement of program goals.
- Provide a safe and healthy physical environment.
- Implement strong personnel, fiscal, and program management policies so that all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences.

NAEYC Accreditation seems tough. How do programs do it?

Child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens are proud to be accredited by NAEYC because they know they’ve worked hard for that achievement. Using NAEYC tools and materials, they are continuously improving their programs to provide the best possible educational opportunities for children.

After an extensive application process, highly trained program assessors visit each program to determine that it is meeting NAEYC standards. Following accreditation, all programs are subject to random, unannounced visits by assessors to ensure that they continue to meet the standards.

NAEYC Accreditation: The Right Choice for Kids.

The NAEYC Accreditation torch is a sign that your child will be safe, healthy, and learning each day. NAEYC has developed 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. Programs that meet these standards provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well-trained, have access to excellent teaching materials, and work with curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound.

Look around. The smiles you see on the children at NAEYC-accredited centers tell the story. Children are engaged in fun and developmentally appropriate activities and are well cared for by their teachers.

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