

Sources of Evidence Overview

In order to demonstrate key components of high-quality programming and preparedness, your program must exhibit comprehensive evidence of meeting accreditation criteria through a variety of sources. These sources of evidence are rated or reviewed by an NAEYC Assessor during your site visit.

The five sources of evidence are:

- Observable Criteria
- Program Portfolio
- Classroom Portfolios
- Family Surveys
- Teaching Staff Surveys

Observable Criteria: On a site visit, an NAEYC Assessor will observe your program facility and some of your classes and rate specific observable accreditation criteria. NAEYC offers programs observable criteria tools to help your program prepare for these observation ratings. Criteria included in the observable criteria tools are related to teaching practices as well as materials and equipment. To prepare for a site visit, your program should conduct practice observations of each class and of the program facility to improve your practices related to the Observable Criteria source of evidence.

Program Portfolio: This source of evidence is a compilation of written and photographic evidence that shows how your program meets specific accreditation criteria. The program portfolio will include evidence of policies and practices that apply to the entire program.

Classroom Portfolio: This source of evidence is a collection of written and photographic documentation that shows how specific accreditation criteria are met in individual classes within your program.

Family Surveys and Teaching Staff Surveys: NAEYC Accreditation is a collaborative process. As such, it requires your program to survey its enrolled families and teaching staff about their perspectives on many aspects of program quality. Programs will conduct 2 rounds of surveys (an open-ended “self-study” version, and a final “self-assessment” version) and reflect upon survey results as part of the program’s continuous quality improvement process. Self-assessment survey results are also used as evidence to show whether specific accreditation criteria have been met.

Successfully demonstrating consistent high quality practices through these five sources of evidence will prepare programs to achieve NAEYC Accreditation.