



NAEYC Accreditation 101

*2011 Annual Conference & Expo
Orlando, FL*

Session Goals

- Identify the importance of structured quality improvement
- Introduce the four steps of NAEYC Accreditation
- Highlight resources available to programs pursuing NAEYC Accreditation



Story

What is Quality?

- Quality is complex
- Quality is dynamic
- Quality must be maintained, sustained and improved over time

Thinking About Accreditation?

- Why is quality important to your program?
- What are your short & long term goals?
- What do you hope to accomplish?
- What are your motivating factors?



NAEYC Accreditation

The Mark of Quality in Early Childhood Education

- What is accreditation?
- Why seek accreditation?
- Why choose NAEYC Accreditation?



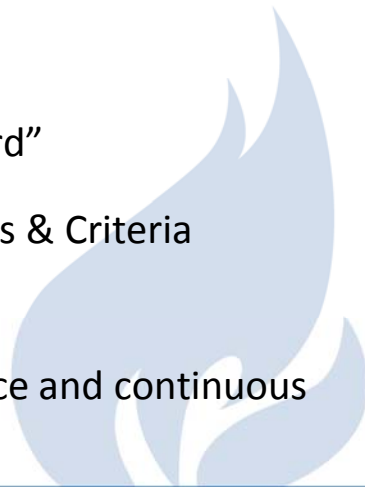
Benefits of Accreditation

- Improved quality for children
- Respect from families
- Community recognition
- Enhanced team spirit
- Local incentives



Characteristics of Accreditation

- National system
- Recognized “gold standard”
- Research based Standards & Criteria
- Rigorous expectations
- Commitment to excellence and continuous improvement





Let's celebrate!

25 Years of NAEYC Accreditation of Programs for Young Children

NAEYC developed its accreditation system in the early 1980s, in response to concerns about the growing number of children attending child care and preschool programs and the lack of consensus as to what constituted quality in such programs. Today the system is widely recognized as the gold standard for excellence in early childhood education. To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we present a timeline of milestones in NAEYC Accreditation.



REM Learning Center
Rose Mary Moreno, Director, Miami, Florida

Miami has always had many child care centers, but when we received our first accreditation, only one center in town had national accreditation, and I don't think I was going to go for it too. That was in 1985, and here we are today with a two and a half acre site serving over 250 children yearly, and employing 40 to 50 staff.

A new generation of parents is visiting now. They ask more questions and are a lot more knowledgeable. They know that NAEYC means quality. The accreditation work that we place on all our teachers continues to be a true testament to the staff's hard work and their dedication to the families we teach every day. We can only say a great big thank you to NAEYC for always being there for the children and for helping us strive to be the best.

REM Learning Center has been NAEYC-Accredited since 1999.

Key Milestones of NAEYC Accreditation

September 1985 NAEYC's earliest accreditation system, the National Academy for Early Childhood Programs, begins operation.	September 1995 The first site visits are conducted.	April 1996 The first 18 programs are accredited.	November 1996 NAEYC publishes the first edition of Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Programs to more clearly define the concept of developmentally appropriate, which NAEYC Accreditation activity results is not safety-oriented.
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2000 More than 1,000 programs are accredited from all 50 states, with an additional 2,000 programs engaged in the process. NAEYC launches a review of the accreditation criteria to ensure that they remain accurate, current, and effective in identifying high-quality programs for young children.	2001 The revised accreditation criteria are made available to programs.	2005 Participants at an national conference sponsored by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation receive awards inspired from the 25th anniversary of NAEYC Accreditation.	2006 NAEYC Accreditation: A Decade of Learning and the Next Ahead is published. By this point in time, 4,500 programs have been accredited. A parallel review and revision of the NAEYC Accreditation criteria begins.
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Accreditation

Video Clip

NAEYC Accreditation

The Mark of Quality in Early Childhood Education

Vision

“Establish NAEYC Accreditation as a leading force for enhancing children’s well-being and early learning by improving quality of early childhood programs serving children birth through kindergarten.”

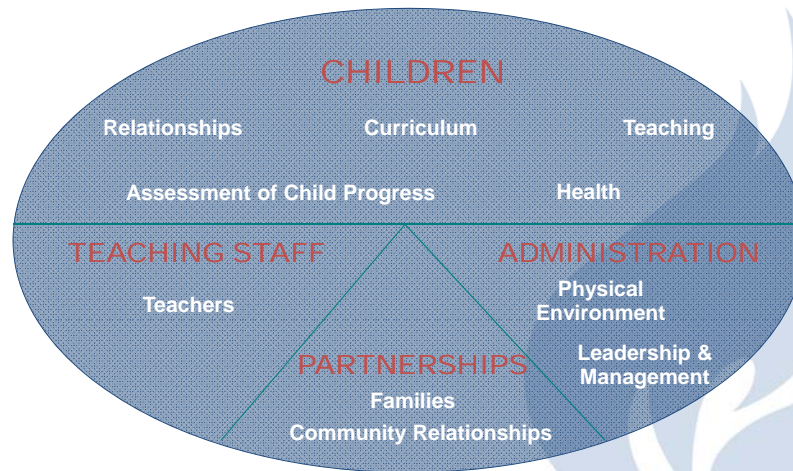


Four Steps of NAEYC Accreditation

- 1 Enrollment in **Self-Study**
- 2 Becoming an **Applicant**
- 3 Becoming a **Candidate**
- 4 **Meet and Maintain** Standards



Standards & Criteria



What to Expect

1. Enrollment/Self-Study
 - Open-ended, self-paced, reflective
 - Focused on making improvements
2. Application/Self-Assessment
 - Formal, task-oriented, deadline driven
 - Focused on organizing evidence



What to Expect

3. Candidacy

- Demonstrate preparedness for site visit
- Document key components of quality

4. Meet & Maintain Standards

- Receive site visit conducted by assessor
- Data collected determines success
- Programs that achieve accreditation maintain over time



Story

Next Steps

- Submit enrollment form to receive Self-Study Kit
- Register with TORCH to access criteria and helpful tools
- Get more detailed information at targeted workshops throughout conference



**NAEYC Accreditation of
Programs for Young Children
Supports & Resources**

naeyc ACCREDITATION NAEYC Accreditation of Programs for Young Children
Program Support Resources

Resources available for NAEYC-Accredited programs and programs engaged in the accreditation process.

TORCH The Online Resource Center Headquarters at www.naeyc.org/torch, is an easily available tool, at no cost, for anyone interested in the standards and criteria or engaging in the NAEYC Accreditation process. TORCH provides a searchable database of the criteria and related information as well as tools to help programs engage in self-study and self-assessment.

E-Update the monthly e-newsletter, provides the latest information on NAEYC Accreditation and announcements of new helpful resources for NAEYC-Accredited programs or programs in the accreditation process. Sign up to receive this useful newsletter at www.naeyc.org/academy in the "Get Help & Resources" section of our website.

NAEYC Website contains information about the NAEYC Accreditation process and related subjects for programs interested in accreditation, pursuing accreditation, currently accredited, and accreditation facilitation projects. www.naeyc.org/academy. Check out the "Get Help & Resources" section.

Accreditation Training Center focuses on developing and delivering training programs needed to better understand and navigate the NAEYC Accreditation process. Available at our national and Affiliate conferences, at headquarters, and through online "listen & learn" presentations and webinars. Visit the Training Center at www.naeyc.org/academy, then "Get Help & Resources."

Accreditation Information Center provides prompt, reliable responses to your questions about NAEYC Accreditation. An expert accreditation coordinator can be e-mailed or contacted at 1-800-424-2460, option 3, then option 1. accreditation.information@naeyc.org

Promotional Videos View four short videos produced for your use on YouTube. Upload them to your website and share at staff and parent meetings and conferences. www.youtube.com/naeycvideos. All four videos are available on one DVD through the NAEYC Online Store at www.naeyc.org/store.

Right Choice for Kids Brochures and Other Promotional Materials Brochures designed for families and the community describe NAEYC's Accreditation process and emphasize its role in assuring high-quality early childhood education. Pam, magnets, and pens can help you celebrate your accreditation. www.naeyc.org/store.

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naeyc ACCREDITATION

NAEYC Academy Website

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NAEYC Accreditation Join NAEYC Online Store Get Involved

Find Accredited Programs Log In Standards and Criteria Forms Fees Get Help & Resources Compliments & Complaints About Us Contact Us

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Accreditation of Programs for Young Children

Interested in Accreditation Pursuing Accreditation or Reaccreditation Currently Accredited Programs Accreditation Facilitation Families and the Public

Since 1965, NAEYC has offered a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs. Today, NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. Over 6,000 child care programs, preschools, early learning centers, and other center- or action-based early childhood education programs are currently NAEYC Accredited. These programs provide high-quality care and education to nearly one million young children in the United States, its territories, and programs affiliated with the United States Department of Defense.

Read more about who we are and what we do.

Join TORCH today!

The Online Resource Center Headquarters (TORCH) is a free online community for individuals interested or involved with NAEYC Accreditation. TORCH gives you easy access to information about the NAEYC Accreditation criteria and the process to become NAEYC Accredited.

Read more.

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www.naeyc.org/academy

TORCH

naeyc Accreditation **TORCH**
THE ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER HEADQUARTERS
TO SUPPORT NAEYC ACCREDITATION

Welcome to TORCH!

naeyc Accreditation

TORCH is an online community that offers tools and resources to assist early childhood program staff and others committed to building a high quality experience for young children from birth through kindergarten. Use this site and the included resources as you work to achieve NAEYC Accreditation – the mark of quality in programs for young children.

Never participated in an online community? To learn more about common features of NAEYC online communities, please see: [Introduction to TORCH 2010](#). Please note that some of the features presented in this instructional video will be available in the near future.



www.naeyc.org/torch

E-Update

naeyc Accreditation Accreditation of Programs for Young Children

e-Update

Academy site | TORCH | Help & Resources | NAEYC site

April 23, 2010

INSIDE e-Update

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Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for NAEYC Accreditation Fees

NAEYC Accreditation Scholarships are awarded to **Programs for Young Children** primarily on the basis of financial need and are available to programs seeking NAEYC Accreditation, ready to engage in self-study, as well as to programs seeking to maintain their NAEYC Accreditation.

NAEYC Accreditation Scholarships subsidize the fees associated with achieving and maintaining NAEYC Accreditation, including fees for:

- Enrollment in Self-Study (Step 1)
- Application and Self-Assessment (Step 2)
- Candidacy (Step 3)
- Annual Reports

Programs may apply for NAEYC Accreditation Scholarships corresponding with different steps of the process, but must submit a new application and supporting documents for each step.

AVAILABLE NOW!

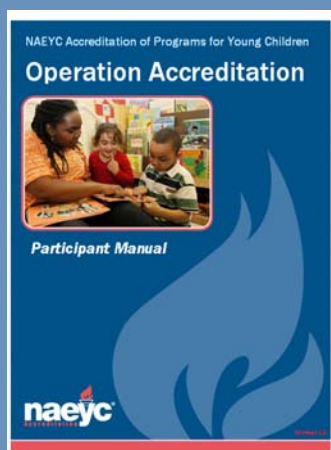
www.naeyc.org/academy/scholarships to download the scholarship application. For more information contact: Accreditation Program Support Information Center at **800-424-2460 option 3, then option 1** or email accreditation.information@naeyc.org



Core funding for the NAEYC Scholarship fund is provided by NAEYC along with generous support by the F.B. Heron Foundation, the Kresge Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



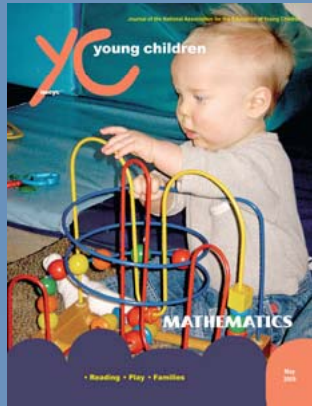
Training Center



- NAEYC's Annual Conference & Professional Development Institute
- Affiliate & National Conferences
- Full day workshops
- Short seminars
- Listen & Learn webinars



Young Children



Getting Started

The Quest for Quality in Early Childhood Programs via the Self-Study Process

The new NAEYC Accreditation Program Support Department offers information and guidance to support quality improvement in programs serving children from birth through kindergarten and to encourage programs to seek NAEYC Accreditation. Through TORCH (The Online Resource Center Headquarters), the information call center, training sessions, and partnerships with NAEYC Affiliates and accreditation facilitation projects throughout the country, the Accreditation Program Support Department is working with programs to help them align their services and activities with the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria.

In this effort, the Accreditation Program Support Department is encouraging all programs to look closely at the tools available to help with quality improvement. Teachers and program administrators are



Right Choice for Kids Website



www.rightchoiceforkids.org

Information Center

1-800-424-2460 option 3, option 1
accreditation.information@naeyc.org

- Staff answer phones & e-mail
 - 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern time
 - Monday through Friday



Questions?

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

T. Berry Brazelton

