



Let's

25 Years of NAEYC Accreditation

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.



Imagination Station Child Development Center, Michigan City, Indiana, upon achieving NAEYC Accreditation, November 2009.



Key Milestones of NAEYC Accreditation

Summer 1985

NAEYC's voluntary accreditation system, the National Academy for Early Childhood Programs, begins operation.

September 1985

The first site visits are conducted.

April 1986

The first 19 programs are accredited.

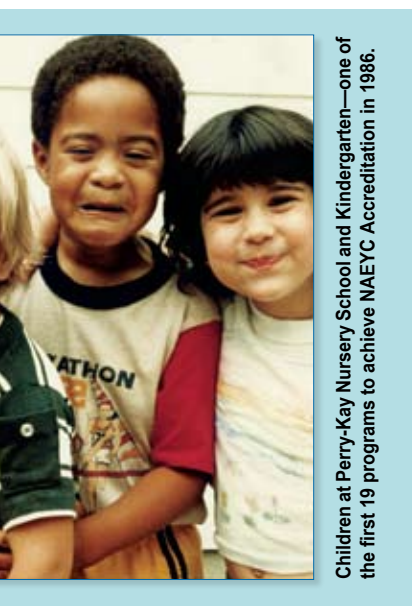


November 1986

NAEYC publishes the first edition of *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs* to more clearly define the concept of developmental appropriateness, which NAEYC Accreditation activity reveals is not widely understood.

celebrate!

of Programs for Young Children



Children at Perry-Kay Nursery School and Kindergarten—one of the first 19 programs to achieve NAEYC Accreditation in 1986.

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 darned if I wasn't going to go for it too. That was in 1988, 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 torch that we place on all our literature continues to be a true testament to the staff's hard work and their dedication to the families we touch 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 1989

1989

More than 1,000 programs are accredited from all 50 states, with an additional 3,500 programs engaged in the process.

NAEYC launches a review of the accreditation criteria to ensure that they remain accurate, current, inclusive, and effective in identifying high-quality programs for young children.

1991

The revised accreditation criteria are made available to programs.

1995

Participants at an invitational conference supported by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation consider lessons learned from the first decade of NAEYC Accreditation.

1996

NAEYC Accreditation: A Decade of Learning and the Years Ahead is published.

By this point in time, 4,500 programs have been accredited.

A periodic review and revision of the NAEYC Accreditation criteria begins.

(cont'd on p. 84)

Key Milestones of NAEYC Accreditation (cont'd)

Jill Wagoner, Parent, Salisbury, North Carolina

I was familiar with the reputation of the Partners in Learning [PIL] program for children with special needs, and I called from our hospital room the day after Cooper's birth. A week later, we visited and spent time with the director, program coordinator, and inclusion specialist. We toured the school, and by the time we left, we had a second family.

In the year since, Cooper has received not only care and love, but the attention of a team of people who have directly affected his development. His experience is tailored not just for any child with Down syndrome but specifically for Cooper. The team at PIL doesn't just see Cooper's low muscle tone and delayed speech, they see a child who is motivated by praise and loves to hear music, snuggle, and smile. Cooper is an amazing child who will do amazing things. His success thus far can be directly attributed to his own hard work and to our team and family at PIL.

*Partners in Learning has been
NAEYC-Accredited since 2000*

Share your story at
www.naeyc.org/academy/anniversary
Stories will be accepted through the end
of December 2010.



1998

NAEYC issues the revised accreditation criteria.

1999

6,000 programs are accredited, with more than 13,700 programs engaged in the process.

Rapid growth strains the system's ability to provide consistent decisions in a timely manner.

The NAEYC Governing Board appoints the National Commission on Accreditation Reinvention to develop a set of recommendations to ground and launch the next era of NAEYC's accreditation system.

2000–2002

The Project to Reinvent NAEYC Accreditation gathers insights from members, programs, and experts, with generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the McCormick Tribune Foundation, and the A.L. Mailman Foundation.

2004

The University of California–Los Angeles Center for Improving Child Care Quality conducts field tests to finalize new accreditation criteria for each of the 10 proposed program standards and to develop new assessment tools.

NAEYC announces additional changes to further strengthen the accreditation system's integrity, including a new policy of unannounced verification visits, a field test for compensating validators who conduct site visits, and enhanced annual reporting.

The number of accredited programs reaches 9,200 in November, marking a 125% increase in accredited programs since 1994.

2005

The Governing Board adopts the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria at its April meeting.

At the Annual Conference in December, new self-study materials are released that outline a 4-step process to achieve NAEYC Accreditation:

Step 1: Enrollment/Self-Study

Step 2: Application/Self-Assessment

Step 3: Candidacy

Step 4: Meeting the Standards/Accreditation Decision; Maintaining the Standards

2010

NAEYC publishes the results of the independent review in the May 2010 issue of *Young Children*. Based on the review and other feedback, NAEYC plans to streamline the accreditation process while maintaining the rigor that makes it the gold standard for excellence in early childhood education.

Nearly 7,000 programs are currently accredited, reflecting the loss of some programs that chose not to undertake the more rigorous post-reinvention process. More than 8,000 additional programs are currently engaged in the accreditation process.

2011

NAEYC anticipates the adoption of revised accreditation criteria and the development of a streamlined and more transparent assessment process.

The first programs accredited after the 2005 reinvention of NAEYC Accreditation will begin the renewal process.



2002

Over 7,500 programs are accredited by NAEYC, with more than 9,000 programs engaged in self-study.

The Commission's recommendations are presented in the May issue of *Young Children* for feedback from members and other stakeholders. The recommendations are designed to make NAEYC Accreditation the standard-bearer for high-quality early childhood programs, and they address the purpose, structure, oversight, and financing for a reinvented system.

The next era of NAEYC Accreditation is formally launched at the 2002 NAEYC Annual Conference in New York City with the announcement of a planned multi-year transition period.

2003

As recommended by the accreditation reinvention commission, the NAEYC Governing Board appoints a new Commission on NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria to develop explicit early childhood program standards and revise the accreditation criteria. The Board also creates the Council for NAEYC Accreditation, delegating to the council governance responsibility for NAEYC's Accreditation of Programs for Young Children.

NAEYC Academy staff begin implementing changes in the accreditation process to strengthen the system's reliability and accountability. The changes include lengthening the term of accreditation from 3 to 5 years, requiring programs to submit notification of their intent to submit to a site visit, and creating a 15-day window for scheduling site visits.

2006

The reinvented system is fully implemented in September, and all NAEYC-Accredited programs now operate under the new program standards and accreditation criteria.

NAEYC establishes a scholarship program to assist programs with accreditation fees.

2007

The first programs receive accreditation decisions under the reinvented system.

2008

NAEYC establishes the Accreditation Program Support department to provide training and support to programs seeking NAEYC Accreditation and to encourage all programs to engage in quality improvement.

Revised Self-Study materials are released.

2009

NAEYC launches a periodic review of the accreditation criteria. At the request of the Council for NAEYC Accreditation, NAEYC commissions an independent review of the accreditation assessment process conducted by leading early childhood researchers.

Congratulations!

You have chosen a program for your child that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In a NAEYC-accredited program you will see...

- warm, sensitive, and positive relationships to help children feel secure
- a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development—cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social
- appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development
- a variety of assessments that help teachers plan appropriate curriculum and experiences for each child's strengths and needs
- a healthy and safe environment that supports the healthy development of children
- a teaching staff with the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development
- collaborative relationships with families based on mutual trust and respect
- connections with the community and its resources
- appropriate and well-maintained indoor and outdoor physical environments, including facilities and equipment to facilitate learning and development
- stable staff and strong program management that help all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences

naeyc Accreditation

What is NAEYC Accreditation?
Programs for young children accredited by the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation have completed a rigorous, comprehensive process of several self-study and improvement. Each NAEYC-accredited program must meet all 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. For more information about the standards and NAEYC Accreditation visit www.naeyc.org/naeyc.

This poster was sent to newly accredited programs from 2005–2009 to congratulate families choosing an NAEYC-accredited program.

NAEYC is streamlining its accreditation process while retaining the rigor that makes it the gold standard for excellence in early childhood programs.

Learn more at

www.naeyc.org/academy

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