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Early Learning Program Accreditation

Accreditation Site   Help & Resources   Program Login

Learn more about the new Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation system!

NAEYC has redesigned its accreditation system to better support early learning programs on their path to high-quality early education. The Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation System offers a more inclusive, flexible, and streamlined model that reflects the realities of today's early learning landscape. Grounded in Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) and aligned with NAEYC's Early Childhood Program Standards, this new system makes it easier for programs of all types to demonstrate and sustain quality.

Visit our **new Quality Assessment and Accreditation webpage** for more information on the new tiered system, including several frequently asked questions (FAQs).

New System FAQ Highlights

Where do I find my updated accreditation certificate in the new Early Learning Hub?

Certificates are available in **the Early Learning Hub** within the "Sites and Certificates" menu item. Certificates display the program name and address included within the "Program Site" record that is listed for the program.

What information do I need to make sure I am entering and updating in the new Early Learning Hub?

Program administrators are expected to keep their program information in the Early Learning Hub current and up to date. There are four (4) main sections within the Early Learning Hub that capture information on program.

- **General Information:** Includes information about the program status, location, enrollment by age group across the program.
  - The enrollment by age group fields are key fields used to 1) calculate the fees charged and 2) provide the program with the appropriate assessment items that will be assessed.
- **Staff:** Includes all teaching/caregiving staff; this is used to assess staff qualification assessment items.
- **Sites and Certificates:** Includes key details on the Primary location and any eligible satellites.
  - This section allows users to download the program's certificate for Recognition or Accreditation,
  - Each "Program Site" record includes key information on the location's days and hours of care, closure/exclusion dates, and other information that will be used by assessors when conducting site visits.
- **Classes:** Includes all *active* classes included in the program (and any satellites)

If our program is deferred and regressed to Recognition, what steps do we need to take to get back to accredited status?

- **Accredited or Accredited+ programs that are deferred will be regressed to Recognition** after the 30-day appeal period. Once the program is regressed, it will see an option to apply for Accreditation on the "Quality Journey" widget in the Early Learning Hub.

- **Programs are encouraged to reflect on the standards or assessment items** where they did not meet the required thresholds, develop a plan of implementing and embedding changes to their policies, practices, etc., seek support if/when needed and ensure any updated policies or practices are fully in place prior to resubmitting.
- **Programs will only encounter the Accreditation document-based assessment items within the application.** If a successful decision is made on the Accreditation application, the program will advance to the Accreditation tier and can immediately apply for Accreditation+.
- After the site visit fee is paid, a site visit will be conducted where **the program will be assessed for the Accreditation Observation-based assessment items.** If a successful decision is received following the site visit, the program will be awarded Accreditation+ status and a new 5-year term.

Read Full List of FAQ's

New System Resource Highlights

New System Protocols

NAEYC's Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation Protocols are intended to clearly outline the protocols, expectations and standard practices used to support programs through various processes of the system.

- **Application Protocols:** For Recognition and Accreditation
  - This resource provides details on what early learning programs can expect from NAEYC when reviewing the 2025 document-based assessment items within applications.
- **Site Visit Protocols**: For Accreditation and Accreditation+
  - This resource provides details on what early learning programs can expect from NAEYC when completing a site visit that includes the 2025 observation-based assessment items.

Updated Early Childhood Program Standards Are Here!

With thanks to everyone who shared their time and perspectives during the revision process, NAEYC is proud to share the updated "**Early Childhood Program Standards** " position statement. This version reflects moderate updates informed by

research, evidence, and educator experience and expertise. As a guiding document for the field, the standards will continue to inform professional practice and shape policy. For ease of access and consistency, the standards have also been structured to more closely align with NAEYC's other foundational position statements and the new ELP accreditation model.

Check Out Our New System Resources

Previously Accredited or Waiting on a Candidacy Site Visit?

Accredited Before March 2025 (Legacy Accreditation System)

If your program is accredited under the previous system, here's what you need to know:

Programs with Valid Until February 1, 2026 will renew under legacy system and standards.

- For legacy system information (2022 version), **follow this link** for information for programs that are waiting on a Candidate or Renewal Site Visit. This site includes key resources that used to be available in Torch.

Programs with Valid Until March 1, 2026 or later will transition to the new system and standards at renewal.

- For new system information, programs can **visit our website** to review the new Policy Handbook and Assessment Items, including other key resources available to assist with the transition.

Accredited After March 2025 (New System)

All new applications after this date will fall under the new system and the Recognition, Accreditation and Accreditation+ tiers. Visit the new system site for more information on how to get started.

New Accreditation System Information

Do you have feedback?

We look forward to your feedback on how to make our new system even stronger. We are continuously challenging ourselves to innovate and to hold ourselves accountable to our stated values. To share your feedback with us, please follow the link to complete our survey.

Complete the Survey

Resources For Families

You can find great articles and resources for families on our website. **Check it out!**

Get Connected!

Connect with us on social media, and NAEYC members can share ideas on **HELLO!**

Follow us on Social Media!
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