



Early Learning Program Accreditation

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ELP Accreditation Updates

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 Learning 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 and FAQs.

New System | FAQ Highlights

What are the steps in the process for our program to renew at Accreditation+?

For Accredited+ programs, the renewal application is available in the Early Learning Hub (on the Quality Journey widget) 1 year prior to the valid until date (VUD) and will be available for 6 months. Before the renewal application is visible, the 4th Annual Report must be submitted and the annual fee paid. Once the renewal application is submitted and a successful decision is received, the program will be prompted to pay the Accreditation+ Site Visit fee. Once that is paid, the 6-month site visit window will be set.

If the initial decision on the renewal application is a deferral, the program will have 30 days to adjust the documentation/responses and re-submit. If the 2nd decision is deferral, then the program will be regressed to Recognition for 1 year free of charge, where they can immediately re-apply for Accreditation.

The full process for programs that are renewing at Accreditation+ is outlined below:

1. Renewal application available one year prior to VUD
2. Submit application six months prior to VUD
3. Assessment completed
4. Program notified
5. Site visit created
6. Pay for site visit
7. Site visit completed
8. Site visit scored
9. Decision
10. Complete annual payment

Where can we find the new accreditation logos?

The new system logos by tier are stored in the new HELLO Communities that exist for each tier: Recognition, Accreditation and Accreditation+. Staff that are affiliated

with a program through the Early Learning Hub can access these communities by selecting the 'HELLO Communities' menu option when logged into the NAEYC Account Hub or the Early Learning Hub. Once within HELLO, users should see the specific HELLO Community based on the current tier achieved by the program.

Quality Assessment and Accreditation Site

New System | Resource Highlight

Early Learning Hub Application Guide

The ELP Hub Application Guide helps early learning programs understand the Recognition or Accreditation Application process, review results, and if needed, make required updates, and resubmit for a final decision.

ELP Hub Application Guide

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), the link below includes the details for programs that are waiting on a Candidate or Renewal Site Visit. The page includes links to key resources that used to be available in Torch: [Legacy System Site Visit Information](#)
- 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 use the link below to review the new Policy Handbook and Assessment Items, including other key resources available to assist with the transition: [New Quality Assessment and Accreditation System Resources & FAQs](#)

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 Quality Assessment and Accreditation System Landing Page](#) for more information on how to get started.

New System Resources Available!

Resources to support the new system are available on our new Quality Assessment and Accreditation webpage.

[Explore All New System Resources!](#)

Do you have feedback?

We are excited about this new system, and we look forward to your feedback on how we can make it even stronger. As we move forward, we are continuously challenging ourselves to think innovatively and to hold ourselves accountable to our own stated values around accessibility, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We thank you for all the support you have given NAEYC early learning program accreditation over the years, and for your support and engagement on the journey to launch the system into the future! To share your feedback with us, **please complete our survey.**

[Share Your Feedback](#)



For Families

We've moved! You can now find great articles and resources for families on NAEYC.org. **Check it out!**



Stay in touch!

Connect with us on social media, and NAEYC members can **share ideas on Hello.**

We Love to Hear From you!

Additional questions? Feedback? Contact NAEYC ELP Accreditation staff today by emailing accreditation.information@naeyc.org. You may also reach us by telephone at **800-424-2460** option 3, for Accreditation of Early Learning Programs.



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1401 H St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005
(202) 232-8777 | (800) 424-2460 | webmaster@naeyc.org

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