

Are you looking for information
on NAEYC's new **Quality
Assessment and Accreditation?**

[CLICK HERE](#)

ELP Accreditation Updates

The New Early Learning Program Accreditation System is Here!

The updated Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation system makes accreditation more inclusive, efficient, and aligned with the evolving needs of early learning programs.

- **A Three-Tiered Model for Broader Participation** – A flexible approach allowing programs to enter at different levels and progress over time.
- **Simplified Process** – Reducing documentation burdens and eliminating redundancies.
- **Stronger Alignment** – Fully integrated with Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) and early learning quality frameworks.
- **New Digital Platform** – A more intuitive portal to guide programs through every stage of the process.

Visit our new Quality Assessment and Accreditation webpage for more information on the new tiered system!

Read More about the New Accreditation System

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 through 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](#) webpage for more information on how to get started.

New System Resources Available!

The following resources are available on our [Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation](#) webpage:

Webinar Recording: Welcome to the NEW NAEYC Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation System

- This recorded webinar from March 13 provides **an overview** of the new Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation system, including

details on the new tiered process, policies and procedures. You can download the Webinar Q&A [HERE](#).

Policy Handbook

- The Policy Handbook includes key information about the new tiered system process, policies, and procedures, including a glossary of terms.

Assessment Items: Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

- The Assessment Items are available in English and Spanish and include the full set of assessment items across the Quality Assessment and Accreditation System, including the 40 document-based items in Recognition and 125 document-based and 75 observation-based items in Accreditation. Assessment Items that are required, optional and those eligible for system wide evidence are also noted.

Self-Assessment Tools

- The Self-Assessment Tools include the guidance that is available within the electronic application to provide clarity on what the item language means and scoring guidance to ensure the appropriate evidence is provided to fully meet the item requirements. These files are available in Word format and can also support programs in preparing for the electronic application submission by capturing the narrative descriptions that programs will submit for each document-based assessment item.

Required Assessment Items

- The Required Assessment Items outline the new required items by tier and include guidance for what to expect when the item is document-based, versus observation-based.

ELP Hub Quick Reference Guide

- The ELP Hub Quick Reference Guide is a scaled down version of the [ELP Hub Guide](#) intended to highlight the key information that a program director or admin needs to know about how to log into the ELP Hub and updating/confirming key program information.

Annual Report Quick Reference Guide

- The Annual Report Quick Reference Guide summarizes the new annual report process within the ELP Hub and includes the new questions programs will respond to in the Annual Reports.

Access New System Resources

Do you have feedback?

We are excited about this new and innovative 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 follow the link below to **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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