



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

When we renew our program's accreditation in the new system, will we need to submit evidence for the Recognition tier?

No. When an Accredited or Accredited+ program is completing the Accreditation Application during the renewal process, only the Accreditation Document-based assessment items will be encountered.

When we are renewing at Accreditation+, what type of notification will we have ahead of our site visit?

When a program is renewing at Accreditation+, the 6-month window will start following a successful accreditation decision on the Accreditation Application. Programs are also provided with notification of the visit up to 7 days ahead and no less than 2:00 PM local time the business day prior.

[Quality Assessment and Accreditation Site](#)

Accreditation Tips

Child Assessment

What is Ongoing Child Assessment?

Ongoing child assessment involves planning, collecting and documenting, interpreting, and using, and sharing data about children's development and learning over time (National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning, 2014). You may be wondering if using a developmental screener like the ASQ-3 is considered a type of assessment. Developmental screeners capture a snapshot of a child's development at a point in time and are typically used to identify if a child might need additional evaluation. Whereas ongoing assessment involves gathering documentation of a child's development over time and using that information to plan intentionally and individualize instruction.

Using observation-based assessments to evaluate children's development and learning.

Observation-based assessment is an approach to assessment where educators regularly observe and document children's knowledge, interests and skills during everyday learning opportunities and routines, throughout the year. Documentation types can include anecdotal records, video and audio recordings, samples of a child's work, and checklists. Using observation-based assessment is essential to understanding children's progress in all key developmental domains as well as each child's strengths, needs and interests.

Using ongoing assessment to individualize instruction.

Regularly reflecting on assessment information can provide a wealth of information for Educators when creating lesson plans, designing learning experiences, and individualizing activities and interactions. Analyzing child assessment information can inform teachers when a child has mastered a skill, when a child is not meeting developmental milestones, what the child's interests are and identify individual learning needs. Using ongoing assessment in your ECE program allows Educators to create a personalized learning experience for each child.

Using the assessment of children's development and learning to inform overall program or provider improvements.

Information collected when using ongoing, observation-based assessment can also inform overall program improvements. Reviewing data across all children and classes can act as a guide and may show gaps in crucial areas throughout the program. This information can be used to indicate where educators need additional training, determine needed equipment or materials throughout the program, or specify the need for stronger partnerships with community resources and family support systems.

Involving families in the assessment of their child's development and learning.

Involving families in ongoing assessment can lead to a well-rounded picture of a child's development. When educators include families in collecting data rather than just sharing assessment results with families, it can also help build a stronger partnership. Consider asking families to provide observations of their child's development from home or add documentation or work samples to their child's portfolio.

Resources

- [**DAP: Observing, Documenting, and Assessing Children's Development and Learning | NAEYC**](#)

- [Ongoing Child Assessment: A Guide for Program Leaders | HeadStart.gov](#)
- [Ongoing Child Assessment Guide: Appendix A Definitions of Terms Used in Comprehensive Assessment Systems and Ongoing Child Assessment](#)
- [Ongoing Child Assessment Guide: Introduction](#)

New System | Resource Highlight

Early Learning Hub Application Results

The ELP Hub Application Results Guide helps early learning programs understand their Recognition or Accreditation Application results. This guide provides details on the application process, decisions definitions and accessing application results.

ELP Hub Application Results 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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