

Provisional Accreditation: A New Option for Programs

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) promotes high-quality early learning for children eight and younger by publishing widely accepted standards of best practices and recognizing programs that implement these standards with a nationally recognized accreditation. During the COVID pandemic, NAEYC has an option for programs to continue to demonstrate high-quality early learning practices without the onsite observation. Programs may choose the option for Provisional Accreditation when reaching the stage of Candidacy. Below is a comparison of Provisional and Standard Accreditation.

Standard Accreditation vs. Provisional Accreditation

Question	Standard Accreditation	Provisional Accreditation
Does the accreditation term last 5 years?	Yes	Yes
Will there be an option to appeal?	Yes	Yes
Will my program appear in NAEYC's accredited program search if accredited?	Yes	Yes*
Will I know my decision within 90 days?	Yes	Yes
Are there additional charges for a visit?	No	No
Do I use the Portal to upload my portfolio evidence?	No	No
Is this only for renewing programs?	No	No
Do I have any other options besides standard, provisional, or withdrawal?	No	No
Will my program have classroom observations?	Yes	No**
Do I need to have digital portfolios?	No***	Yes

*Program will be identified on the provisional accreditation spreadsheet on the Accredited Program Search as being in provisional accreditation due to COVID restrictions.

**An observation-only visit will occur in 2022 if the program achieves provisional accreditation.

***Programs that choose Standard Accreditation have the choice of creating digital portfolios or hard copy portfolios.

Visit our [Provisional Accreditation](#) web page to access details about provisional, helpful [resources](#), and [frequently asked questions](#) about Provisional Accreditation.