

# Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation Required Assessment Items

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NAEYC required assessment items related to best practices are listed below. Required assessment items must be met by programs in order to earn and maintain NAEYC Recognition or Accreditation.

It is imperative that programs understand and properly document required assessment items. Programs rated “No” on any one of the required assessment items during an application review or site visit will receive a decision of “Defer” regardless of the program’s performance in relation to all other assessment items and best practices.

**Through the application review process**, if the assessor determines that a required assessment item has not been met during the scoring, a detailed description of the failure will be provided within the comments, and the program will receive a “Deferred” decision. The program can refine documentation and resubmit one time for reconsideration. Programs have 30 days following the deferral to resubmit. Once documentation is re-submitted, the program will receive an updated decision.

**Through the observation site visit process**, if the assessor determines that a required assessment item has not been met during the visit, a detailed description and accounting of the failure will be provided by the assessor while onsite at the program. Within three business days of the conclusion of the site visit, a member of NAEYC’s Early Learning Program Quality Assurance team will notify the program of the next steps required.

Critical Incidents: If an assessor observes any child in immediate risk for harm or abuse, the assessor will notify the program administrator immediately and may be required to contact the appropriate authorities. An observation may be terminated, and the entire visit may be terminated.

## Recognition Application

### R.6.05 (All Ages)

The staff handbook includes a child guidance policy that:

- 1) prohibits the use of physical punishment, psychological abuse, or coercion, and
- 2) addresses how disruptive and unsafe behaviors in children are handled, and
- 3) limits or eliminates the use of suspension, expulsion, and other exclusionary measures due to consistent and prolonged disruptive or unsafe behavior.

## **R.9.03 (All Ages)**

The program is in good standing with the applicable state licensing authority or applicable public or governmental regulatory system at the time of assessment.

## **Accreditation Application**

### **A.6.15 (All Ages)**

The staff handbook includes a child guidance policy that:

- 1) includes examples and definitions of physical abuse, psychological abuse, and coercion,
- 2) outlines the steps the program or provider will take to address disruptive and unsafe behavior to include
  - a) assessing why the behavior is happening,
  - b) how the program or provider will work with families and other professionals to develop individualized plans, and
  - c) how positive behavior support strategies will be used.

### **A.6.17 (All Ages)**

The staff handbook includes a supervision policy which states:

- 1) infants and toddlers are always supervised by sight and sound, and
- 2) preschoolers and kindergarteners are primarily supervised by sight and sound with brief periods where they may be supervised by sound only, as is developmentally appropriate.

### **A.6.18 (All Ages)**

The staff handbook includes a policy that outlines the expectation for all educators who work directly with children to be certified in pediatric CPR and first aid.

### **A.6.20 (Infants)**

The staff handbook includes an infant sleep policy to include that:

- 1) all staff must place infants younger than 12 months on their backs to sleep without the use of infant sleep positioners, unless ordered by a physician, and
- 2) when infants younger than 12 months arrive at the program or provider asleep, or fall asleep in equipment not specifically designed for infant sleep, the infant is removed and placed in appropriate sleep equipment (including infants who fall asleep while being held by program staff and providers), and
- 3) soft items are not allowed in cribs or infant sleep equipment for infants younger than 12 months.

## **A.9.01 (All Ages)**

The staff handbook includes a policy which describes:

- 1) how the rights of staff members and the children in their care are protected when a staff member is accused of abusing or neglecting children in their care, and
- 2) how staff members who report legitimate suspicions of child abuse and/or neglect are protected from retaliation for doing so.

## **A.9.14 (All Ages)**

The program is in good standing with the applicable state licensing authority or applicable public or governmental regulatory system at the time of assessment.

# **Accreditation Observation**

## **O.6.10 (All Ages)**

Staff never use physical punishment and do not engage in psychological abuse or coercion.

## **O.6.11 (Infants & Toddlers)**

Infants and toddlers are always supervised by sight and sound.

## **O.6.12 (Preschoolers & Kindergarteners)**

Preschoolers and kindergarteners are supervised by sight and sound most of the time. Children may be out of sight for up to five minutes so long as they can still be heard.

## **O.6.13 (All Ages)**

There is always at least one educator with current pediatric CPR and first aid training in the learning environments where children are present.

## **O.6.14 (Infants)**

Staff always place infants younger than 12 months on their backs to sleep without the use of sleep positioners unless ordered by a physician.

## **O.6.15 (Infants)**

Infants are only placed to sleep, or permitted to sleep, in equipment that is specifically designed for infant sleep. When infants fall asleep in a staff member's arms the infant is placed to sleep in appropriate equipment.

## **O.9.04 (All Ages)**

The class observation was free of unusual circumstances or critical issues (not otherwise covered in this observation tool) that should prevent this class from passing.