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Early Learning Program Accreditation

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Program News: October 2025

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of **Program News**, your source for up-to-date info on NAEYC Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation! This month, along with key updates, we are sharing newly available resources that supports early learning programs in understanding the expectations of the new system. Check out all the resources we have available to support the transition to the new system.

LAST CHANCE: Register for Our Pre-Conference Session!

Navigating NAEYC's Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation: Understanding the New System and Strengthening Staff and Family Policies and Procedures

This session will provide an in-depth overview of the new quality assessment and accreditation system designed for early learning programs, and participants can

earn 0.6 CEUs in the process!

Learn More and Register!

Now Available: NAEYC Revised Code of Ethics

NAEYC has released a new version of the **Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators**. This much-anticipated position statement revision affirms that early childhood educators who work in homes, centers, and schools have professional, ethical responsibilities that go along with their core knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions—and which together guide the ethical decision-making and behaviors that support each and every child's healthy development, learning, and well-being.

Read the Revised Code of Ethics

Advocacy in Action

Federal Staff Cuts Put Services for Young Children with Disabilities at Risk


As part of a broader round of federal layoffs, the Department of Education has cut nearly all positions overseeing special education programs. These positions are essential to ensuring young children with disabilities can access inclusive, high-quality early learning and public education.

Without federal oversight and guidance, programs may see reduced support for families, gaps in services, and increased strain on state and local systems.

Congress has a long history of bipartisan support for inclusive education starting in early childhood and into public education. Now is the time to remind them what's at stake.

Take Action:

 [Tell Congress: Protect Inclusive Early Learning for All Children](#)

 [Share Your Experience: How are these federal changes affecting your program?](#)

Explore Our New Accreditation System

NAEYC has redesigned its Early Learning Program Accreditation System to better support programs in achieving and maintaining high-quality early education. The new Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation System is:

- **More inclusive, flexible, and streamlined**, reflecting the current early learning environment.
- **Grounded in Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)** and aligned with NAEYC's Early Childhood Program Standards.
- Designed to make it **easier for all types of programs** to demonstrate and sustain quality.

Get to Know Our New Accreditation System

Updates for NAEYC Accredited Programs

Accreditation+ Renewal: What You Need to Know


Programs may begin their Accreditation+ renewal up to one year before their Valid Until Date (VUD) once the fourth annual report is submitted and the annual fee is paid.

The renewal application is available in the Early Learning Hub (under the Quality Journey widget) for a six-month window—from 12 to 6 months before the VUD.

Programs are encouraged to start early and use the [Self-Assessment Tools](#) to prepare.

After submission:

1. The application is reviewed and scored.
2. Upon a successful decision on the application, programs receive an invoice for the Site Visit Fee.
3. Once paid, a six-month window for the site visit is set.
4. A decision is issued within 45 days after the visit.
5. Upon a successful decision, the annual fee for the first year of the new 5-year term is due.

 **Tip:** Submitting early helps ensure your renewal is complete before your VUD. If needed, extensions may be granted to allow time for the visit and decision.

Programs that do not wish to renew at Accreditation+ should contact the NAEYC Support Team to request a change of status.

New Resources for Accredited Programs



Recognition Resource Guide – Lists all Recognition assessment items with their rationale, intent, common errors, and recommendations.

Self-Assessment Tools – Contain each tier’s assessment items and evidence types, along with guidance from the electronic application. This explains item language and provides scoring guidance to help programs submit the right evidence.

Timeline Checklist – Outlines the steps in each tier, required tasks in the Early Learning Hub, and key timeline considerations.

Application Protocols – Explains what programs can expect from NAEYC when document-based assessment items (2025) are reviewed in applications.

Site Visit Protocols – Explains what programs can expect from NAEYC during site visits that include observation-based assessment items (2025).

Check Out Our New System Resources



We are looking for new ELP Accreditation Council Members!

Are you passionate about ECE program quality and looking for a meaningful service opportunity that supports Early Learning Program Accreditation? The NAEYC Council for Accreditation is seeking new members. Applications will be accepted through December 1, 2025.

Learn More and Apply Now!

Do you have feedback?

We look forward to your feedback on how to make our new system even stronger. We are continuously challenging ourselves to innovate and to hold

ourselves accountable to our stated values. To share your feedback with us, please follow the link to complete our survey.

Complete the Survey



Resources For Families

You can find great articles and resources for families on our website. **Check it out!**



Get Connected!

Connect with us on social media, and NAEYC members can share ideas on **HELLO!**

Follow us on Social Media!
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