

naeyc[®]

Early Learning Program Accreditation

[Accreditation Site](#)

[Help & Resources](#)

[Program Login](#)

Welcome to Program News!

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of **Program News**, your source for up-to-date info on NAEYC Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation! Whether your program is already accredited and advancing its quality journey, or you're exploring the process with our new, easier-to-use system, you'll find the latest updates and resources below.

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 will soon be **seeking new members** to serve terms that begin March 1, 2026 and conclude December 31, 2028. NAEYC

encourages applications from people of all races, religions, national origins, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and ages as well as veterans and individuals with disabilities. We hope that you will consider applying!

Applications will be accepted October 1 through December 1, 2025.

Learn More and Apply Now!



Learn more about the new Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and 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



Annual Report – New Save Feature

Programs can now save an Annual Report in progress and return to it later. To save, use the "Save" button at the bottom of the Annual Report form. This allows administrators to begin a report, save draft responses, and return when ready. For more details—including a list of the questions included—see the [Annual Report Quick Reference Guide](#).

Inviting Collaborators to an Application

Only the ELP Hub user who starts a Recognition or Accreditation Application can access it directly in the Hub. To give others access to view or edit, use the **Add Collaborator** option inside the application. Invited collaborators must log in using the email invitation they receive. **Please note:** adding someone as a collaborator does not make them an admin in the Hub.

Updates to Applications in Progress

We've updated the application layout to make responses clearer and more consistent. Here's what you'll notice:

1. **Sentence guidance** – All items now show a single range of 3–8 sentences (instead of some being 3–5 and others 5–8).
2. **Examples** – For items requiring two examples, you'll now see two separate response boxes. The requirement hasn't changed, but the layout makes it clearer.

Right now, during the "soft roll-out," only one response box is required if you already used the previous tools. Eventually, both will be required. Updated tools and resources will follow soon. Our goal is to make the application process clearer and help programs submit stronger responses.

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

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!
#naeyc



© National Association for the Education of Young Children

1401 H Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC, 20005 US

(202) 232-8777 | (800) 424-2460

info@naeyc.org

[View in Browser](#) | [Preferences](#)