



NAEYC Accreditation: Stats and Facts

For more than 20 years, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has helped families feel good about the child care programs they choose. The NAEYC Accreditation torch is a sign that children will be safe, healthy, and learning every day.



NAEYC Accreditation — A national, voluntary system to measure the quality of child care centers, preschools and kindergartens, and to help these programs improve.

Programs that Can Seek NAEYC Accreditation:

- Child care centers
- Preschools and prekindergartens
- Kindergartens
- Other center-based programs serving children from birth through kindergarten

By the Numbers...

- More than **11,000 NAEYC-accredited programs**
- Approximately **one million children** served
- **10 standards** of excellence in early childhood education
- **400+ criteria** to prove a program meets NAEYC standards
- Programs must achieve **80% of criteria** to meet standards
- **Five year** accreditation term
- Reports submitted to NAEYC **every year**, along with new verification procedures including unannounced visits.

The Life of NAEYC Accreditation:

- 1985** — NAEYC created the first comprehensive system to measure the quality of early childhood programs.
- 1999** — Began a process of self-evaluation to improve the accountability, efficiency, and credibility of its already strong accreditation.
- 2006** — NAEYC's new and improved accreditation system will be fully operational.

Earning the Torch

To obtain the NAEYC mark of quality, programs go through a rigorous four-step process:

Enrollment — Programs must go through a self-assessment before applying for accreditation.

Application — Programs submit an application and determine a time frame for completing a formal self-assessment report.

Candidacy — Fundamental licensing, staffing, health, and safety requirements must be met by all programs.

On-Site Visit — Observation of the program by NAEYC assessors determines if the program meets all 10 NAEYC standards.

10 Standards of High-Quality Early Childhood Education

1. Promote **positive relationships** for all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth.
2. Implement a **curriculum** that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
3. Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and **effective teaching approaches**.
4. Provide **ongoing assessments** of a child's learning and development and communicate the child's progress to the family.
5. Promote the **nutrition and health** of children and protect children and staff from injury and illness.
6. Employ a **teaching staff** that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.
7. Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with each child's **family**.
8. Establish relationships with and use the resources of the **community** to support the achievement of program goals.
9. Provide a safe and healthy **physical environment**.
10. Implement strong personnel, fiscal, and program management policies so that all children, families, and staff have **high-quality experiences**.

NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

- Nearly **100,000 members**
- A national network of more than **300 local, state, and regional affiliates**
- A growing **global alliance** of similar organizations