

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Accreditation is a voluntary process that provides family child care homes, centers and school-age programs the opportunity to examine their services based on recognized standards of high quality. The purpose of accreditation is to offer professional recognition and consumer distinction to providers who meet high standards of quality child care through their consistency and dedication. The process involves a self-study completed by the practitioners, a validation visit from the professional organization and a final decision made by a commission that reviews the information from applicants and validators.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE (NAFCC) ACCREDITATION

For family child care programs

The national Association for Family Child Care accredits family child care homes that offer high-quality child care services. The accreditation is intended for providers who have demonstrated a commitment to reach beyond the minimum requirements of state licensing.

THE NATIONAL AFTERSCHOOL ASSOCIATION (NAA)

For school-age programs

The National AfterSchool Association is a professional support network promoting quality programs for children and youth during their out-of-school time. The accreditation is a process that recognizes safety, care and opportunity to help assure long-term stability and quality for school-age children.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NAEYC) ACCREDITATION

For child care centers and preschool programs

The National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of NAEYC, administers a national, voluntary, professionally sponsored accreditation system to help raise the quality of early childhood programs. The program engages in an extensive self-study based on the Academy's Criteria for High Quality Early Childhood Programs. The accuracy of the program's self-study is verified during a site visit by a team of trained validators. A commission views the validation and self-study results and grants accreditation for a five-year period.

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ACCREDITATION (NECPA)

For child care centers

The NECPA system is a streamline, user-friendly approach to accreditation. The NECPA accreditation process examines program areas such as professional development, work environment, outdoor environment, developmental program, parent and community involvement, and administration. It begins with a self-assessment and improvement plan which the center implements. A volunteer peer verifier then follows up with an on-site visit. The National Accreditation Council studies the results of the assessment, reviews the verification and grants accreditation.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS (NACCP) ACCREDITATION

For child care providers

The accreditation process developed by NACCP promotes professionalism and program quality and respects individual program autonomy and philosophy. It has been designed to be user-friendly with easy to understand directions and processes. Self-study materials guide programs toward optimal early care and educational practices.

Adapted from INCCRRA: *Your Pathway to Professional Growth*



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