



NAEYC ACCREDITATION

Top 30 Benefits of NAEYC Accreditation

In 1985, NAEYC launched its accreditation of programs for young children to address the growing concern about what constituted high quality in early care and education programs. Thirty years later, NAEYC Accreditation has set itself apart as the gold standard for excellence in the field, currently accrediting nearly 7,000 programs serving more than 600,000 children.

Listed below, according to topic, you'll find the Top 30 Benefits of NAEYC Accreditation:

Quality

- 1** The NAEYC Accreditation process is a great team-building activity for programs! Achieving accreditation brings a strong sense of accomplishment to teachers and administrators when they reflect together on how far they have come
- 2** Through Self-Study and goal setting, NAEYC Accreditation helps early childhood programs achieve and maintain high-quality early care and education. It outlines best practices for programs and encourages programs to be the best they can be.
- 3** NAEYC Accreditation provides children and their families a higher level of quality care and makes it more attainable for all families through NAEYC partnerships with state quality rating and improvement systems.

- 4 From playground environments to the emotional environment in classrooms, from administrative policies to teaching practices, NAEYC standards and criteria are comprehensive and capture the full range of what a program should do to deliver high-quality education.
- 5 NAEYC Accreditation supports ongoing quality improvement and best teaching practices. NAEYC-accredited programs receive up-to-date information policies and procedures in the early childhood field.
- 6 Teachers report being almost as excited about the knowledge they gained through the process of quality improvement as they are about receiving a positive accreditation decision.
- 7 The NAEYC program standards and criteria contain specific descriptions of quality practices and explain the procedures that programs use to measure quality.

Resources

- 8 In many communities, accreditation facilitation projects (AFPs) help with fees, offer support through trainings, and provide technical assistance to programs seeking NAEYC Accreditation.
- 9 NAEYC has a network of 278 Affiliates that provide customized resources and support for high-quality early childhood education. Many Affiliates have an Accreditation Chair dedicated to providing support to programs working to earn or maintain NAEYC Accreditation.
- 10 Enrollment in the accreditation process provides programs with tools and resources to support their early child care program each step of the way toward NAEYC Accreditation.
- 11 Customized virtual support is available from NAEYC Academy Staff.
- 12 Self-Study is the primary process for implementing real and lasting improvements in early childhood programs to create a safe, responsive environment where children can grow and learn.
- 13 The NAEYC Accreditation process facilitates program–family partnerships through family surveys and feedback.

Improvement

- 14 The focus placed on continuous quality improvement opens a pathway to ongoing reflection and professional growth.
- 15 Teachers at NAEYC-accredited programs use developmentally appropriate practices and intentional strategies to help children learn.
- 16 As a program goes through the NAEYC Accreditation process, the bonds between teachers, administrators, and families are strengthened through their work together in learning about the criteria for quality and collecting evidence of how the program meets them.
- 17 The Self-Study process gives staff opportunities to reflect on areas needing improvement and to enhance the quality they provide to the children they serve.
- 18 NAEYC Accreditation increases the visibility of programs and recognizes teaching staff and administrators for their commitment to providing high-quality care and education.
- 19 Staff in programs seeking accreditation are engaged throughout the entire process, taking ownership of program practices.

Community

- 20 Accredited programs partner with their community to provide needed services and resources to families.
- 21 NAEYC-accredited programs focus on providing a high-quality learning experience to young children and constantly look for ways to improve.
- 22 To support and promote children's optimal learning and development, NAEYC-accredited programs invite families to participate extensively in their children's educational experience.
- 23 NAEYC-accredited programs establish and maintain collaborative, responsive relationships with each child's family to foster children's development.
- 24 Parents and families trust NAEYC Accreditation because they know that accredited programs provide the highest quality care and education for young learners.
- 25 Early childhood programs that achieve NAEYC Accreditation are committed to providing high-quality early learning experiences.

From the Field

26 “Accreditation is definitely considered the gold standard in Montana. It is revered by early childhood professionals in our state Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services. NAEYC Accreditation has been designated as the top level of STARS to Quality, our state’s quality rating system. It is the only accreditation approved for childcare centers.”

—*Sharon DiBrato, Montana AEYC Executive Director, Montana AFP*

27 “Programs that I work with, through the use of their NAEYC family surveys and informal parent conversations, have received positive feedback regarding the quality of teaching staff interactions, overall child satisfaction, and new materials.”

—*Jamie Mikulas, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, New Jersey AFP*

28 “NAEYC Accreditation has helped our company achieve and maintain consistent high-quality care in our programs. It pushes us to be the best and choose best practices. . . . NAEYC Accreditation helps our programs be recognized through our state quality rating and improvement system as a substitute for many of the criteria to achieve the state’s highest level in the quality rating and improvement system.”

—*Jessie Watson, District Manager, New Horizons Academy, Minnesota AFP*

29 “Earning the prestigious NAEYC Accreditation is evidence of our district’s commitment to high-quality, developmentally appropriate preschool. This puts us at Indiana’s highest Pathway to Quality—Level 4. We will use this accreditation as a foundation for continued growth and advancement to meet the needs of all of our young children.”

—*Denna Renbarger, Director of Early Childhood, Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, Indiana*

30 “I send my child to an NAEYC-accredited program—and not just because I work there—but you can see and feel the difference. I did plan to send him to a non-NAEYC-accredited center, but a week before he was supposed to start, I stopped by and they acted like they had never met me. That was a red flag for a new mom, and I worried about my child just being another number. The center I attend now, from the minute I arrived, was well organized, the teachers interacted with my son, everyone was friendly, and the follow-up to enroll him was professional.”

—*Cassie Chapman, Interim Director, Accreditation System Integrity, NAEYC, Washington, DC*