

NAEYC Accreditation & Maintenance Grant

The purpose of this grant is to apply for and maintain NAEYC Accreditation. This grant is designed for programs who have gone through the initial coaching and application process and are ready for their NAEYC Accreditation site visit.

Earning accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the highest mark of quality for an early childhood program. It demonstrates that the program exceeds state requirements for teacher education level, maximum group size and teacher:child ratio

Accredited programs have met NAEYC's 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. These programs have demonstrated that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well-trained, have access to excellent teaching materials, and work with a curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound.

The Standards

Standard 1: Relationships.

Standard 2: Curriculum.

Standard 3: Teaching.

Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress.

Standard 5: Health.

Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support.

Standard 7: Families.

Standard 8: Community Relationships.

NAEYC Accreditation helps parents find the best possible early childhood experience for their children. NAEYC-Accredited programs must:

- Promote positive relationships for all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth.
- Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
- Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches.
- Provide ongoing assessments of each child's learning and development and communicate the child's progress to the family.
- Promote the nutrition and health of children and protect children and staff from illness and injury.
- Employ and support 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 interests and needs.
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with each child's family.

- Establish relationships with and use the resources of the community to support achievement of program goals.
- Provide a safe and healthy physical environment.
- Implement strong personnel, fiscal, and program management policies so that all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences.

NAEYC Accreditation: No Small Feat

Early childhood education programs are proud to be accredited by NAEYC because they know they have worked hard for that achievement. Using NAEYC tools and materials, they are continuously improving their programs to provide the best possible educational opportunities for children.

After an extensive application process, skilled and reliable NAEYC program assessors visit each program to determine that it is meeting NAEYC standards. Following accreditation, all programs are subject to random, unannounced visits by assessors to ensure that the programs continue to meet these standards.

Children

Every child deserves access to high-quality early learning experiences. NAEYC-accredited early learning programs are exceptionally well equipped and meticulously measured for indicators of quality in the classroom and beyond. From guidelines for teacher preparation through safety standards, NAEYC Accreditation ensures that programs are safe, well prepared, and intentional about ensuring children's success. As a reputable indicator of quality, NAEYC Accreditation correlates with children's greater readiness and success in school and beyond; increased educational attainment rates; and overall healthier lifestyles.

Teaching Staff and Administration

As a facilitator of quality-improvement initiatives in classrooms across the country, NAEYC Accreditation is dedicated to ensuring that teaching staff and administrators have access to the latest research and use the best practices in the early learning field. With over 7,000 accredited programs nationwide, NAEYC offers new programs pursuing accreditation access to a vast network of high-quality accredited programs and research to learn from. Staff at NAEYC-accredited programs report enhanced team spirit and commitment to workplace success resulting from the self-study and preparation processes for accreditation. By ensuring that all aspects of their work environment meet NAEYC's research-based program standards and criteria, staff have a direct hand in establishing their professional environment and contributing to its success.

Families and Community Relationships

Programs that pursue NAEYC Accreditation join a community invested in ensuring quality early learning opportunities for young children everywhere. In addition to program accreditation, NAEYC has an expansive system of affiliate offices across the country who represent 60,000 early learning professionals worldwide who advocate on behalf of young children everywhere. NAEYC's resources for families, practitioners, and programs create a web of support and

connectivity, making NAEYC the foremost association in the field of early learning. [Accreditation fees](#)

Stage 3: Candidacy & Site Visit | Starting at \$950

1 to 60 children	61 to 120 children	121 to 240 children	241 to 360 children	Every additional 120 children
\$950	\$1,175	\$1,400	\$1,625	Add \$235

Annual Accreditation Fee | Starting at \$650

1 to 60 children	61 to 120 children	121 to 240 children	241 to 360 children	Every additional 120 children
\$650	\$750	\$900	\$1025	Add \$175

Programs pay the accreditation fee (based on current number of students enrolled) at the end of each year. Currently accredited programs that have maintained their accreditation throughout the 5-year term are not assessed a separate renewal fee in addition to the annual accreditation fee.