

The logo features the text "naeac" in a large, bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. A red torch with a flame is positioned above the letter "a". Below "naeac", the word "Accreditation" is written in a smaller, bold, red, uppercase sans-serif font. The background is a gradient of blue with a large, light blue curved shape on the right side.

naeac Accreditation

An Overview of the Accreditation Process

What is NAEYC?

Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with nearly 90,000 members, a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates, and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations.

NAEYC's Mission

The National Association for the Education of Young Children exists for the purpose of leading and consolidating the efforts of individuals and groups working to achieve healthy development and constructive education for all young children from birth through age 8.

Primary attention is devoted to assuring the provision of high-quality early childhood programs for young children.

NAEYC Accreditation

Since 1985, NAEYC has offered a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs.

Today, NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education.

“I think one of the greatest advances to child care was the creation of the NAEYC Accreditation system, which has helped so much to raise the quality of programs.”

~ T. Berry Brazelton, MD

4 Steps to Accreditation

1) Enrollment/ Self-Study (now)

Create shared understandings of key concepts: standards, criteria, implications for the program

- gather information
- determine strengths and weaknesses
- develop improvement plan
- make improvements
- evaluate results

2) Application and Formal Self-Assessment

Apply for Self-Assessment (by January 24, 2015)

- download candidacy materials
- gather data from teaching staff and parent surveys
- document evidence that standards are met and prepare portfolios
- fine tune program performance

3) Candidacy

Submit candidacy materials by due date (January 25, 2015)

- continue to fine tune program improvement efforts
- prepare for site visit
- receive candidacy decision from Academy

4) Meeting the Standards/ Accreditation Decision

-Program is contacted by Assessor and 15-day window for visit is established

-Site visit occurs within 6 months of candidacy due date, or between February 1 - June 24, 2015

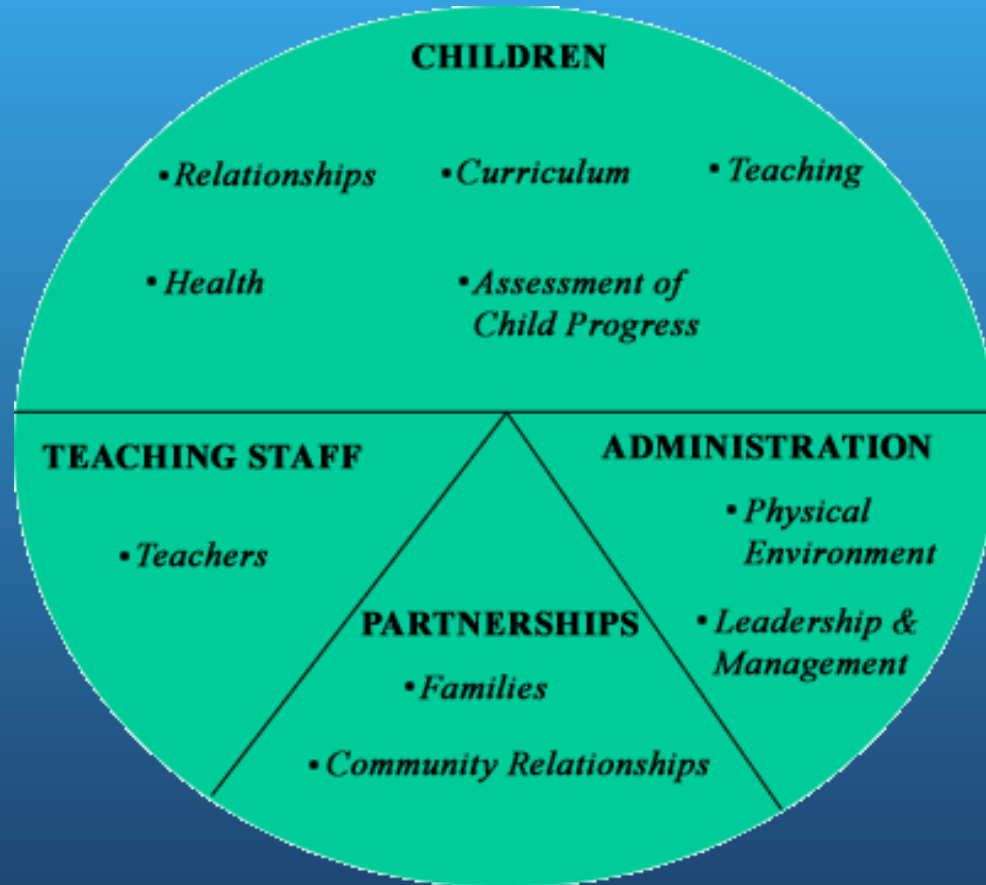
-Decision will be rendered within 3 months of visit, or by

September 30, 2015

10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards

- 1- Relationships
- 2- Curriculum
- 3- Teaching
- 4- Assessment of Child Progress
- 5- Health
- 6- Teachers
- 7- Families
- 8- Community Relationships
- 9- Physical Environment
- 10- Leadership and Management

Focus of the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards



Criteria

- 400+ criteria to prove program meets NAEYC standards
- Criteria are grouped by the following categories for the purposes of the site visit:
- *Required*—*Required criteria are so fundamental to program quality that they must be fulfilled to achieve NAEYC Accreditation. There are no required criteria related to the Families and Community Relationships Standards.*
- *Always Assessed (Always)*—*These criteria will be assessed during each site visit and are considered as part of the overall score to determine accreditation status.*
- *Randomly Assessed (Random)*—*These criteria could be assessed during a site visit, and programs should be prepared to be assessed on any of the random criteria.*

- *Emerging Practice (Emerging)*—These criteria are ones that are important to program quality but are not yet widely practiced, and time is needed for the early childhood field and individual programs to develop the capacity (through additional training, major facility renovations, or other significant steps) to meet them. Programs may be assessed on emerging practice criteria.
- When programs are assessed on these criteria and they meet them, then the programs will receive credit for doing so. However, a program will not be penalized for failing to meet an emerging practice criterion. NAEYC will assess overall performance of all programs on the emerging practice criteria to determine how those criteria will be considered in the future.

In a nutshell

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 a relationship 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**

Sources of Evidence

Evidence is a critical concept for NAEYC Accreditation. The process is:

- designed to focus on evidence of the program's ability to meet the standards and criteria consistently
- over time, not simply on the day of the site visit.
- Specific tools are provided in the TORCH Resource Library to help you gather documentation of your program's past, present, and future performance
- related to each standard

The sources of evidence are:

O = Observable Criteria

FS = Family Survey

TS = Teaching Staff Survey

PP = Program Portfolio

CP = Classroom Portfolio

Our Timeline

- Since last spring - enroll in self-study
- By January 24, 2015- apply for self-assessment
(download candidacy materials, gather documentation to support compliance and prepare portfolios)
- January 25, 2015- candidacy due date
- February 1 -June 24, 2015- site visit
- By September 30, 2015- site visit decision is rendered
- CELEBRATE!!

In Review

Creating shared understandings

Reviewing policies and procedures as a group, identifying growth areas, creating an action plan, and then reconvening to revisit and evaluate progress

Building consensus

Demonstrating compliance through creation of digital portfolios

What's next?

- Schoolchapters tutorial
- group review of parent survey and distribute at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents can fill it out there or take it home and return it by a specified date. This will allow us to let them know that we need and value their input.
- Establish dates for work sessions.

- Review staff surveys
- Begin developing classroom and program portfolios
- Visit each other's classrooms to assess physical standards or find someone who is knowledgeable to do a mock visit. Anyone know someone that could do this?
- Register for TORCH: lharries/NAEYC1
- Become familiar with Schoolchapters
User name is your school email/password is Dracutps1