

Welcome to NAEYC Accreditation

Congratulations on your decision to pursue accreditation or being a new owner or new director of a NAEYC accredited center! We are excited to have you in our community. Here's some helpful information to introduce you to NAEYC Accreditation:



Why Accreditation?

Research shows a direct correlation between high-quality early learning and children's positive long-term outcomes in life. NAEYC accreditation helps teachers and other staff of early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. Our [Benefits of Accreditation](#) page will give you insight into how NAEYC accreditation supports children, teaching staff, administration, families, and community members.

NAEYC's early learning accreditation standards are made up of recommended practices for children, teachers, and administrators. The standards encourage accountability for providing high-quality early learning environments and continuous improvement. Get to know the 10 standards on our [Interested in Accreditation](#) page.

Maintaining Accreditation

As a new owner or director of an accredited program, you are in stage 4, [maintaining your accreditation](#). During this stage, accredited programs continuously ensure that their environment, policies, and practices are aligned with the NAEYC standards. To gain an understanding of the 10 standards, download the [NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items](#) handbook. This handbook includes the recommended practices for each standard, and the accreditation assessment items that [assessors](#) use to collect evidence of quality when visiting a program.



Getting to Know the Accreditation Portal

All accredited and those pursuing accreditation have an accreditation portal to create staff and class profiles, complete and pay annual fees, submit 72-hour notifications, and more! Visit our [Accreditation Portal Resources](#) page to watch how-to video videos on navigating the portal and to download valuable resources.

Renewing and Pursuing Accreditation

After entering into your new role, you may discover that it's time for the program to renew its accreditation, or to pursue first-time accreditation as a candidate. NAEYC offers multiple tools to help you prepare for your accreditation visit. The downloadable resources are in the TORCH which can be accessed when you sign in to your [Accreditation Portal](#). In TORCH you will find guidance to conduct a self-study, the observation and portfolio tools the assessor will use to collect data, the site visit protocol, and procedures, and other important resources. If you are interested in additional support with preparing for your accreditation visit, you may want to consider adding [accreditation training](#) to your calendar.

Getting Accreditation Support

Our NAEYC team is here to help you! Contact a team member by emailing us at accreditation.information@naeyc.org or calling us at 1-800-424-2460, option 3, and choose one of the following support options below.

- Accreditation Portal Technical Support
- Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items
- Feedback, Appeals, Questions about Critical Incidents
- Payment Questions and to Make a Payment

For local support, view our [Accreditation Facilitation Projects](#) locations to see if there's a supporting organization near you.

The NAEYC accreditation process is a commitment to quality care and education for young children, families, and the professionals who serve them. We thank you for making this commitment, and we look forward to supporting you along the way.