

Accreditation and Ratings



You're responsible for the health and development of a very important person- your child. NAEYC wants children to receive the care and attention they deserve in a safe, healthy learning environment. When you choose a NAEYC Accredited program, you're joining a program that has demonstrated its commitment to excellence in early childhood education. You have high expectations...and so do we.

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

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.

The Right Choice for Kids

NAEYC Accreditation is the mark of quality that you seek, and it assures you that your child will be safe, healthy, and learning each day. 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. Make sure to look for the NAEYC Accreditation torch when choosing the right program for your child. Visit www.rightchoiceforkids.org for more information. When you choose an NAEYC-Accredited program, you are making the right choice for kids.

A Step Up To Quality **Two Star** rated program means that your child is in a program with:

- **Lower group size in the infant room for birth to 12 month olds; lower ratios in the preschool and school-age classrooms.** This means the teachers have more time to support your baby's individual development and learning. This is important because 85% of brain development occurs by the time your child is three years old and the number of words your child knows when they enter kindergarten is the single most important predictor of school success.
- **The administrator and at least 50% of teachers have a credential and/or a degree in early childhood education.** This means that the administrator and teacher(s) have formal knowledge to support your child's development and learning. This is important because just like a doctor needs formal education, so do those working with young children. Working with young children is science - brain science.
- **The administrator, all lead teachers and assistant teachers complete 10 hours of specialized training annually.** This means that the administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning. This ensures that early care and education professionals keep up to date with the ever changing knowledge base of their profession.
- **Provides annual performance evaluations, professional development planning and at least two benefits (such as insurance, paid leave, tuition reimbursement etc.) to employees.** This means that the program is a place where employees are supported and treated professionally. This is important because good programs retain good teachers.
- **Teachers conduct a developmental screening upon entry and utilize Ohio's Infant Toddler Guidelines, Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards and K-12 Standards in their curriculum planning.** This means that your child's program uses research based information when planning your child's day. This is important because it means teachers are intentional in planning their teaching strategies in order to support your child's development and learning.

