



NAEYC Accreditation: Information for Parents

First Baptist Church Children's Center is proud to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC administers the largest and most widely recognized accreditation system for all types of early childhood schools and childcare centers. NAEYC is the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators.

FBC Children's Center is in the process of preparing for re-accreditation by the NAEYC in 2009. Applying for NAEYC Accreditation is voluntary. Early childhood programs accredited by the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation voluntarily undergo a comprehensive process of internal self-study, which includes family surveys and staff surveys. External professional review to verify compliance with the Criteria for High-Quality Early Childhood Programs is also part of the accreditation process.

NAEYC has created **10 standards** that measure the quality of early childhood programs. The standards were created by a blue-ribbon panel of early childhood experts and are based on the latest early childhood research.

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 a 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 needs and interests.
- 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's reinvented accreditation system requires early childhood programs to complete four steps to achieve NAEYC Accreditation. The four steps and requirements were developed with extensive input from early childhood educators and reviewed by the Reinvention Commission on NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria, Council for NAEYC Accreditation, a board-appointed work group of representatives from a large system of programs for young children.

The Four Steps to NAEYC Accreditation are:

- **Step 1: Enrolling in Self Study**
Enrollment in Self-Study is the first of four steps toward achieving NAEYC Accreditation. It is an essential step toward achieving NAEYC Accreditation. The purpose of self-study is to encourage programs to engage in a structured approach to program improvement that considers all of the necessary components of a high quality program.
- **Step 2: Becoming an Applicant**
After completing self-study, a program officially begins the accreditation process by submitting an Application and committing to complete the Candidacy Materials within one year.
- **Step 3: Becoming a Candidate**
When the program submits the completed Candidacy Materials, the program is eligible to become a Candidate for NAEYC Accreditation.
- **Step 4: Meeting the Program Standards**
Provided that a program successfully meets Candidacy Requirements, NAEYC Assessors will conduct a site visit within six months of a program's Candidacy Due Date. After the site visit, NAEYC will inform the program of its Accreditation decision.

First Baptist Church Children's Center has completed the self-study process and submitted the application. We are currently in Stage 3 of the Accreditation process. We are working to complete the Candidacy Materials packet and compile evidence for classroom and program portfolios. Our Candidacy Materials packet is due January 31, 2009. After submission of our packet, we expect to be contacted to schedule a site visit within the first six months of 2009.



NAEYC Accreditation: The Mark of Quality Education for Your Child

When you see the NAEYC Accreditation torch, you know that your child will be safe, healthy, and learning each day. You know what makes a good child care program – infants are laid down on their backs to nap, toddlers are taken outside for well-supervised play, and preschoolers are learning about shapes and solving puzzles. NAEYC Accreditation means you're getting this and more.

"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, M.D.
The Brazelton Institute
Children's Hospital Boston
Harvard Medical School