

Eligibility Requirements

Programs eligible to obtain or retain NAEYC Accreditation of Early Childhood Programs must be:

- Center- or school-based. The program facility may not serve as the residence of any person associated with the program unless approved as a center or school by the program's licensing or regulatory body.
- Serving children between the ages of 0-8 (infants, toddler/twos, preschoolers, kindergartners and/or before and after school care).
- Be located in the United States or its territories, unless affiliated with United States Department of Defense schools and child development centers/programs.
- Be regulated by the appropriate licensing/regulatory body. See ***Additional Information on Licensing/Regulation*** below for more information about licensing/regulation.
- Be willing to meet and demonstrate they consistently meet each of the NAEYC Early Learning Accreditation Standards.

Additional Information on Licensing/Regulation

Appropriate licensing bodies refer to state licensing agencies. Appropriate regulatory bodies refer to public agencies such as a board of education or the military.

- Programs that are not regulated by a public agency and are not legally prohibited from obtaining a state license must document that they have taken the steps to obtain a state license. It is not necessary for the licensing process to be completed by the state before the program is eligible to apply for NAEYC Accreditation.
- Programs that are not regulated by a public agency and are legally prohibited from obtaining a state license must voluntarily comply with their state licensing requirements. The program must verify the following to demonstrate that they voluntarily comply with their state licensing requirements:
 - The program administrator has reviewed the state's licensing requirements.
 - The board chair, president, or owner of the program has reviewed the state's licensing requirements.
 - The program is voluntarily in compliance with the state's licensing requirements.
 - Upon registration of children in the program, families are provided with a copy of the state's licensing requirements and are informed that the program is voluntarily in compliance with the state's licensing requirements.
 - The program has documentation of fire and health inspections.
 - The program has completed a criminal background check on all staff and has complied with state and federal law concerning background checks.
 - The program employs no individual convicted of a crime involving sexual abuse, child abuse, or neglect.

Approved by Council for NAEYC Accreditation: May 2016

Effective Date: September 1, 2016