NAEYC Accreditation Monitoring and Quality Assurance

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About NAEYC Accreditation

• NAEYC Accreditation is a meaningful tool for program quality improvement for programs serving children birth through kindergarten.

• Developed in the early 1980s

• A comprehensive system review and reinvention was fully implemented in fall 2006.

• In 2010 an independent review of the site visit and decision protocols was completed validating these processes.
# Four Steps of NAEYC Accreditation

1. **Enrollment in Self-Study**
2. **Becoming an Applicant**
3. **Becoming a Candidate**
4. **Meet and Maintain Standards**
Structure of Program Standards

• Standard
  – Topic
    • Criteria
      – Indicator(s)

Sources of Evidence
Step 4: Meet & Maintain

Demonstrate how Standards are met during Site Visit

Evidence compiled during Self-Assessment for all criteria

- Subset of criteria reported in Candidacy Materials
- Subset of criteria is assessed on Site Visit

Assessment Categories:
- Required
- Always
- Random
- Emerging
Program Decisions

• Outcomes:
  – Accredited
  – Deferred
  – Denied

• 80% of all assessed criteria in each standard
• 70% on all criteria assessed in each group
• All Required Criteria
Assessment/Monitoring Protocol

*Programs demonstrate how Standards are met during Site Visit*

**Written/Photographic Sources of Evidence**
- Program Portfolio
- Classroom Portfolios
- Family Surveys
- Teaching Staff Surveys

**Observable Source of Evidence**

**Observable Criteria**
Assessor Qualifications

• A minimum of a baccalaureate degree with; Credit bearing hours of specialized college-level work addressing both:
  – Child development and learning from birth through kindergarten. (Courses may be in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education); and administration, leadership, and management.

• Relevant professional experience in a setting serving children from birth through kindergarten.
Assessor Reliability Training

• Initial 5 day training
  • Establish inter-rater reliability with the gold standard on the tools used during the site visit assessment.
  • Join a assessor mentor on at least two site visits and achieve inter-rater reliability.

• Annual reliability visit as part of a site visit assessment.
• Annual Assessor Symposium including a practical observation, group reliability exercise.
• Quarterly performance report (monitors for triggers which could result in additional reliability training).
Assessor Quarterly Performance Reports

• Provide feedback on overall performance
• Detailed information including
  • decision outcomes,
  • errors in visit documents and data collection,
  • financial reporting,
  • feedback from program administrators.
• These reports are provided to individual assessors; Reliability Specialists follow up with individual assessors to discuss any areas of concern or highlight specific feedback if needed.
Accreditation Decision Report

Standards and Criteria Scores
- Overall score for each standard
- Includes list of unmet criteria (Deferred & Denied Programs)

Sources of Evidence Feedback
- Program-Wide
- Classroom/Group-Specific

Broad Areas of Improvement
- Identify trends within sources of evidence feedback
- Identify topic areas of improvement using the list of unmet criteria
Ongoing Monitoring

• Annual Reports
  – Submitted on 1\textsuperscript{st}-4\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of accreditation decision

• Verification Visits
  – As a result of Annual Report, Self Report, 72-Hour Notification, Complaint or other source
  – Classroom observations, licensing status and required criteria
  – Announced or unannounced
Coming Enhancements

• Trend Briefs
  (http://www.naeyc.org/academy/primary/trendbriefs)
• Piloting School-Age Child Care
• Enhanced resources for self-study
• Streamlined, transparent assessment tool