

National Organization Overview

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Related Secondary Technical Program Areas: Early Childhood Education

Introduction – The following is a summary of data collected from the website of this organization. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review on all aspects of the major topics presented. Specific website sub-links are provided for access to more detailed information. It is important to note that organizations do not always provide all of the most current data available on their websites. Direct contact with the appropriate organization's staff members is necessary to ensure that the most current and comprehensive information has been obtained.

National Organization: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
<http://www.naeyc.org/default.asp>

Descriptor: The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with nearly 100,000 members; a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates; and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations.

NAEYC expresses its mission in terms of three broad goals:

- Improving professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education.
- Supporting early childhood programs by working to achieve a high-quality system of early childhood education.
- Building a high-performing, inclusive organization of groups and individuals who are committed to promoting excellence in early childhood education for all young children.

1. National Program Skill Standards

A. Program Standards

Focus Area: Children – 5 Standards

Focus Area: Teaching Staff – 1 Standard

Focus Area: Partnerships – 2 Standards

Focus Area: Leadership and Administration – 2 Standards

http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/next_era.asp

2. Program Accreditation/Certification – The *NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation* administers a national, voluntary accreditation system to help raise the quality of all types of preschools, kindergartens, and child care centers. Currently there are more than 10,000 NAEYC-accredited programs, serving more than 850,000 children and their families. Since the system began in 1985, NAEYC accreditation has provided a powerful tool through which early childhood professionals, families, and others concerned about the quality of early childhood education can evaluate programs, compare them with professional standards, strengthen the program and commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement. <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/academy.asp>

The program must:

- Meet eligibility requirements for NAEYC Accreditation –
 - Center- or school-based program serving children birth through kindergarten
 - Serving a minimum of 10 children
 - Operation for at least one year prior to submitting materials for candidacy

- Regulated by the appropriate licensing/regulatory body (an alternative will be phased in for license-exempt programs)
- Located in the United States or its territories, unless affiliated with United States Department of Defense schools and child development centers/programs
- Willing to meet each of NAEYC's 10 early childhood program standards.
- Demonstrate that key program staff/leadership understand the NAEYC Accreditation process
- Establish a collaborative process for completing program assessment that involves the program administrator, teaching staff, families, and representatives of the program's governance

A. Instructor Certification –

Program Administrator – Must have at least a baccalaureate degree with:

- at least 9 credit-bearing hours of specialized college-level course work in administration, leadership, and/or management, *and*
- at least 24 credit-bearing hours of specialized college-level course work that addresses child development and learning from birth through kindergarten in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education

or: Documents meeting an appropriate combination of relevant education and work experiences as outlined in *Table 2*: <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/table1.asp>

or: Documents that a plan is in place to meet these qualifications within 5 years.

Teachers – 75% of the teachers must meet one of the following:

- Have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent
- Be working on an Associate's or higher degree in early childhood education, child development/family studies, early childhood special education, or elementary education with a concentration in early childhood education or the equivalent
- Have a degree (Associate's or higher) outside of the early childhood field and 3 or more years work experience in an NAEYC-accredited program
- Have a degree (Associate's or higher) outside of the early childhood field with 3 or more years work experience in non-accredited program, and at least 30 contact hours of relevant training during that past 3 years

B. Program Accreditation Process – NAEYC's reinvented early childhood program accreditation system requires programs to complete four steps to achieve NAEYC Accreditation. These requirements are designed to increase the accountability of the system for children, families, and all customers of NAEYC Accreditation (a goal established by the National Commission on Accreditation Reinvention and the NAEYC Governing Board.) Ultimately, the four steps are designed to ensure that programs meet each of NAEYC's ten Early Childhood Program Standards, which represent NAEYC's definition of excellence for an early childhood program.

<http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/steps.asp>

C. Estimated Program Accreditation Costs – Fees vary by the size of program enrollment. Information provided below is for *Level 1* – 60 or fewer children. Detailed information at:

<http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/seeking.asp#details>

Initial Costs: estimated total - \$2,225

Self-Study materials - \$425	On-Site Visit - \$650	Verification Visit - \$650
Notification of Intent - \$200	Annual Reports - \$300	

Annual Fees: Annual Report fees - \$300

D. Accreditation Term: 5 years

E. Accredited/Certified Programs in Maine – Provided at: <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/search/>

3. National Technical Certifications – NAEYC does not appear to offer national technical certifications and related exams. This is addressed for professional staff through the normal higher education degree process. The *Council for Professional Recognition* offers the Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program. For information please access: <http://www.cdacouncil.org/>

4. Curriculum & Related Resources

A. Professional Development Resources – Information on specific programs and services provided at: <http://www.naeyc.org/about/overview.asp>

Information for Teachers & Administrators: <http://www.naeyc.org/teachers/>

On-line store: <http://sales.naeyc.org/default.aspx>

5. Contact Information

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