



NAEYC Accreditation – The Mark of Quality



Presented by:
National Association for the
Education of Young Children (NAEYC)



NAEYC

- ◆ The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1926, with a membership of 100,000 professionals.
 - ◆ NAEYC early childhood program accreditation
 - ◆ Teacher standards and professional development
 - ◆ Network of 400 state and local affiliates
 - ◆ Research and evidence-based position statements on key issues in the field
 - ◆ Public awareness and public advocacy



NAEYC Accreditation Highlights

- ◆ NAEYC Accreditation began 1985; revisions are undertaken every 7 years
- ◆ 1999, the NAEYC Governing Board created the National Commission on Accreditation Reinvention
- ◆ April 2005 NAEYC Governing Board approves new standards and criteria
- ◆ September 2006 Full implementation of reinvented NAEYC Accreditation (some process changes already in effect)
- ◆ Currently there are 10,000-plus NAEYC accredited programs serving nearly one million children and their families from birth through kindergarten in child care centers, Head Start, and schools.



The Vision & Mission

NAEYC accreditation is a leading force for enhancing children's well-being and early learning by improving the quality of early childhood programs serving children birth through kindergarten

Set and monitor the standards for high quality early childhood programs (centers and schools serving children birth through kindergarten)





Who Benefits from NAEYC Accreditation

- ◆ **Families:** It's the right choice for kids. It's proof that kids are in a safe and educational environment.
- ◆ **Programs:** It's a mark of quality. Helps create better programs. Tells families, "We're doing it right."
- ◆ **Communities and States:** It's a strong investment in raising the quality of early childhood education.

2005 Minnesota Dept of Human Services study of child care programs found that children in NAEYC accredited programs were more ready for school

"We're Doing It Right"



Helping ALL

- ◆ Help all programs engage in self-study using tools based on program standards and criteria, regardless of whether programs are seeking NAEYC Accreditation
- ◆ Help more families, programs, and the public recognize the value of high quality early childhood education and leverage resources to help programs reach and maintain high quality and continuous improvement



Developing New Early Childhood Program Standards

- ◆ National Commission of researchers and noted experts
- ◆ 9 Technical Resource Teams
- ◆ UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality
- ◆ Input and feedback from more than 1,000 stakeholders

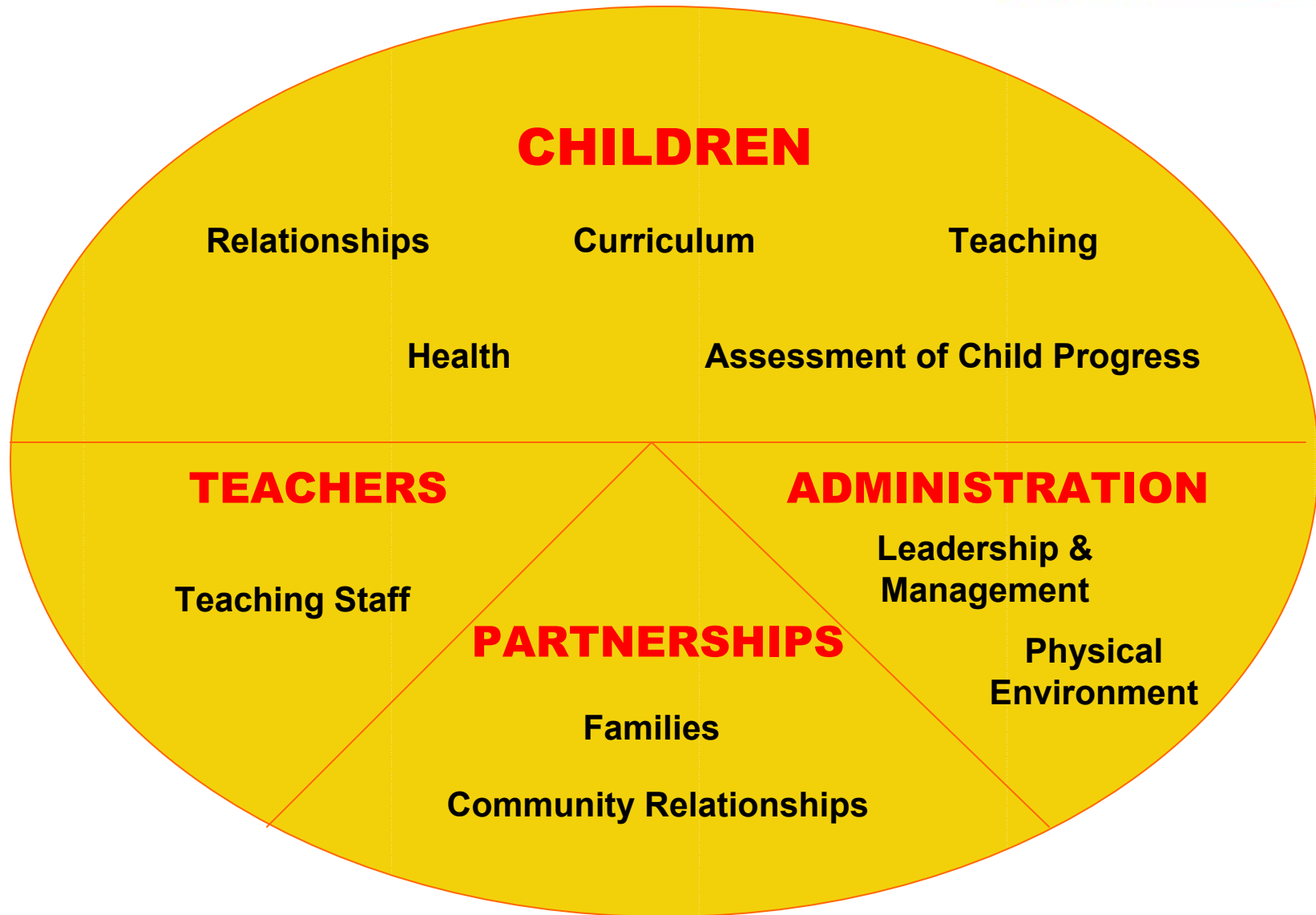


Reinvented Accreditation System

- ◆ 10 standards that define high-quality programs (demonstrated through more than 400 criteria)
- ◆ Clear process for meeting standards – 4 steps
- ◆ New assessment instruments and assessor training
- ◆ Improved evaluation system; more data collection

What Hasn't Changed:

Children are the ultimate beneficiaries of NAEYC accreditation.





Accreditation Assessment Instruments

- ◆ **Field tests designed and implemented by Center for Improving Child Care Quality of UCLA**
 - ◆ **Internal reliability of the criteria** associated with each program standard
 - ◆ **Validity of assessment instruments** relative to other widely used measures of quality
 - ◆ Training data collectors to optimal levels of **inter-rater reliability** and procedural options on visits
 - ◆ Assessor **training system** and assessment processes simulations



How the Programs are Assessed for Accreditation

- ◆ Must meet each of the 10 standards and meet 80% of criteria within each standards
 - ◆ **Always Assessed**, including a small set of Required criteria.
 - ◆ **Randomly Assessed**.
 - ◆ **Emerging Practice Criteria**



Learnings for the Field: Emerging Practices Criteria

- ◆ Important aspects of high quality programs that not yet widely practiced
- ◆ NAEYC will monitor overall field's performance during 2006-2008; results will determine schedule for full implementation
- ◆ During 2006-2008 window, failure to meet them will not be considered in the accreditation decision although those who do meet them receive credit



Four Steps to NAEYC Accreditation

- ◆ NAEYC accreditation includes a consistent process for achieving and maintaining accreditation

1	Enrollment in self-study
2	Becoming an applicant
3	Becoming a candidate
4	Meeting program standards



Accountability

- ◆ 15-day window for onsite visits; one business day notice
- ◆ Strengthened annual reporting; verification of changes that occur at accredited program
- ◆ Unannounced visits to accredited programs
- ◆ Most visits occur within 6 months of request; most states have no wait for visits



Assessor Reliability & Consistency

More intensive training

- ◆ 3-5 days initial training
- ◆ Requirements for ongoing training and professional development to ensure reliability
- ◆ Monitoring of all assessors for “drift”



New Materials, Tools & Data Collection

- ◆ New materials:
 - ◆ For programs seeking accreditation
 - ◆ For programs not ready for accreditation but seeking to improve
- ◆ New assessment tools field tested by UCLA
- ◆ New data collection



Keeping NAEYC Program Accreditation Affordable & Accessible

- ◆ Fees spread total costs over the 5 years to help programs plan into budgets
- ◆ Programs still do not bear full cost of the system – NAEYC helps underwrite
- ◆ Scholarships for accredited programs' annual report and onsite visit fees (funded by NAEYC and outside entities)





Linkages with State Policies

- ◆ 7 states link eligibility for state prekindergarten funds to NAEYC accreditation
- ◆ 11 states link QRS to NAEYC accreditation
- ◆ Most states link top level of tiered reimbursement to NAEYC accreditation



A Good Investment/Return on Investment

A good investment

- ◆ Programs that go through NAEYC accreditation offer high quality care and learning for young children
- ◆ Programs not ready to seek NAEYC accreditation at this time still have the value of the NAEYC accreditation standards materials

A return on investment

- ◆ NAEYC accredited programs add value to their communities by providing quality experiences for children and their families
- ◆ Policies linking with NAEYC accreditation as a lever to understand and implement high quality leads to more young children with positive early learning experiences



Communications and Advocacy

Policies using NAEYC accreditation as a lever to articulate and implement high quality lead to more young children with positive early learning experiences





NAEYC Resources

www.naeyc.org

- ◆ www.naeyc.org/accreditation/academy.asp – NAEYC early childhood program accreditation information
- ◆ www.rightchoiceforkids.org -- information for families about NAEYC accreditation
- ◆ www.naeyc.org/about/positions.asp -- NAEYC Position Statements adopted by the Governing Board
- ◆ www.naeyc.org/policy – federal and state public policy developments and NAEYC recommendations