

# Ensuring Quality in Early Childhood Education

## What accreditation means and how it benefits you and your child.

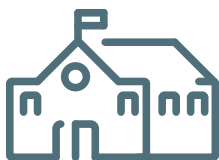
You are looking for the right place for your child. A place where they can learn, play, and grow. A place that will be safe. An environment that is caring and stimulating. But how do you choose? Like most parents, you visit child care centers and preschools near where you live or work. You talk to your friends to discuss where they send their children and if they are satisfied. We know there is more you would like to know. So, the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) program was established to ask the questions you want answered and to verify quality standards your child deserves.

NECPA Accreditation verifies and certifies that an early childhood program meets research-based standards of excellence and that it consistently provides high quality care and education. The NECPA designation assists parents in selecting child care by identifying these programs that go above and beyond state requirements and who have a commitment to children's success.

The NECPA program is a rigorous process that measures every area of concern to you and your child. Decades of research has proven that high quality care supports the following:

- Improved language, reading and math capabilities,
- Problem solving and advanced thinking,
- Social-emotional competency and resiliency,
- Memory and motor skills,
- Long-term successes. Children are more likely to;
  - Be healthier adults and report less obesity,
  - Achieve a four-year degree,
  - Become higher-wage earners.

# Encouraging Quality & Recognizing Excellence.



## How does a program become accredited?

NECPA gathers detailed information from people who know each program best: the administration, teaching staff and the parents of the children who attend the program. They respond to the questionnaires on over 250 aspects of the program's care, learning, safety and administration. The program's teachers and administrators learn more about what is accepted as the best environment and practices for young children and how to implement and maintain these standards in their classroom. All classrooms are evaluated and all standards must be met in order to achieve NECPA accreditation.

The NECPA's independent professionals visit the site to verify the standards. The resulting in-depth profile of the program's approach and operations is analyzed by NECPA's National Accreditation Council to determine if the program meets our rigorous standards and all applicable governmental regulations. Only then can a program be awarded National Early Childhood Program Accreditation. Once accredited, each center is reviewed annually by NECPA to verify that quality standards are maintained. Programs are also subject to review at any time.

Each area below is thoroughly honed and examined throughout the NECPA Accreditation process.

### Areas of Excellence

Learning Environment

Health, Safety & Supervision

Program Administration & Staffing

Parent, Community & School Relations

Developmental Program & Teacher Interactions

This quality program has chosen to voluntarily participate in this highly intensive process to ensure your child will be provided the best care and education.

The NECPA Commission, Inc.  
Learn more online or call our team at 855-706-3272.  
[www.NECPA.net](http://www.NECPA.net) [NECPA@necpa.net](mailto:NECPA@necpa.net)