

Prepared for the State of New Mexico
Children, Youth and Families
Department by the Center for
Education Policy Research at the
University of New Mexico

**Second Update to the
Crosswalk of NAEYC
Early Childhood
Program Standards and
Accreditation Criteria
with Other
Accreditation Systems
(originally published
November 2012)**

September 30, 2014

September 30, 2014 Update to *Crosswalk of NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria with Other Accreditation Systems* (originally published in November 2012)

Prepared for the State of New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department by the Center for Education Policy Research at the University of New Mexico

Background

In November 2012, the Center for Education Policy Research at the University of New Mexico (CEPR) submitted to the State of New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) a report, *Crosswalk of NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria with Other Accreditation Systems*, which rated five national early childhood education accreditation systems according to degree of match to the 2007 revised accreditation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

CYFD determined that each accreditation system could demonstrate a high quality match to NAEYC standards by meeting: 1) two mandatory accreditation process criteria; 2) six mandatory accreditation standards criteria; and 3) two of four preferred accreditation standards criteria (see Table 1).

The National Accreditation Commission (NAC), whose initial submission did not meet the full requirements for high quality match to NAEYC standards, responded in fall of 2014 to CYFD's earlier invitation to submit additional evidence of match for a second round of review. NAC submitted new materials directly to CEPR's review team in September of 2014 and CEPR immediately undertook a new review. The goal of the review team was to determine whether new materials submitted provided adequate evidence of high quality match to the three NAEYC standards criteria deemed mandatory by CYFD that had not been matched in the 2012 first round of review.

Overview of Review Process

CEPR convened two of its original study team members to review the resubmitted materials, in order to determine level of match for the three standards criteria that had not achieved "equivalent" or "comparable" match ratings in the initial 2012 review (Standard 3: Teaching; Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress; and Standard 6: Teachers.).

In conversation with CEPR in August, NAC acknowledged that their initial 2012 submission did not represent a best possible effort to provide evidence of match of NAC standards to NAEYC standards. As NAC was unable to determine at this date what they had used to prepare their 2012 crosswalk, CEPR provided NAC with an electronic copy of the initial 2012 crosswalk prepared by NAC, and confirmed that no standards manual or other supplementary materials had been received by CEPR to inform the 2012 review. In September 2014, NAC provided CEPR with full standards and accreditation documentation in binder form, as well as well-organized crosswalk materials, drawn solely from standards documents, so that CEPR reviewers did not need to eliminate, query or ask to supplement any of the materials submitted.

Reviewers then rated degree of match, using the same numerical scale for standards match as used in round one. Reviewers' scores were averaged, and as scores were in accord in all three standards areas, no third reviewer was required.

Summary of Findings

In the initial 2012 report, CEPR's crosswalk of NAC to NAEYC standards found that:

- 3 Mandatory Standards criteria were not matched (3, 4 and 6)

In its September 2014 review of new evidence, CEPR found:

- Satisfactory new match to all 3 of these Mandatory Standards criteria (3,4,6)

NAC was found to be an overall high quality match to NAEYC Process and Standards criteria, as set out by CYFD requirements. Thus, we recommend that they be recognized by the State of New Mexico as an approved early childhood accrediting system.

(See Table 1 for detailed Match to Standards Chart.)

TABLE 1 UPDATED MATCH TO NAEYC EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM STANDARDS and ACCREDITATION PROCESS CRITERIA, NAC, SEPT. 2014¹

NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children	NAC: National Accreditation Commission	
Accreditation Process Criteria	Average of Reviewer Scores	Comparable to NAEYC?
Criterion 1: On-site reliable, independent assessment is conducted at each site. MANDATORY	n/a	Yes
Criterion 2: Unannounced visits are conducted during accreditation period. MANDATORY	n/a	Yes
Accreditation Standards Criteria		
Standard 1: Relationships - Program Standard: The program promotes positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and to foster each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member. MANDATORY	2	Yes
Standard 2: Curriculum - Program Standard: The program implements a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive. MANDATORY	2.5	Yes
Standard 3: Teaching - Program Standard: The program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the program's curriculum goals. MANDATORY	1.5	Yes
Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress - Program Standard: The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal, and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development. These assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop. Assessment results are used to benefit children by informing sound decisions about children, teaching, and program improvement. MANDATORY	2	Yes
Standard 5: Health - Program Standard: The program promotes the nutrition and health of children and protects children and staff from illness and injury. MANDATORY	2.5	Yes
Standard 6: Teachers - Program Standard: The program employs and supports a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests. MANDATORY	2.3	Yes
Standard 7: Families - Program Standard: The program establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with each child's family to foster children's development in all settings. These relationships are sensitive to family composition, language, and culture. PREFERRED	2	Yes
Standard 8: Community Relationships - Program Standard: The program establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals. PREFERRED	4	No
Standard 9: Physical Environment - Program Standard: The program has a safe and healthful environment that provides appropriate and well-maintained indoor and outdoor physical environments. The environment includes facilities, equipment, and materials to facilitate child and staff learning and development. PREFERRED	3	No
Standard 10: Leadership and Management - Program Standard: The program effectively implements policies, procedures, and systems that support stable staff and strong personnel, fiscal, and program management so all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences. PREFERRED	2.5	Yes
Totals <i>Standards Criteria Highest Match = 10, Lowest Match = 40 Total (Process and Standards Criteria) Highest Match = 12/12</i>	24.3	10 Yes/ 2 No All Mandatory Criteria Met

NAC

In order to be accepted as an approved early childhood accrediting system by the State of New Mexico, the state's Children, Youth and Families Department requires that 10 of the 12 above Accreditation Process and Standards Criteria be rated "Yes" matches to comparable NAEYC criteria. In addition, all of the 8 criteria marked MANDATORY must be met.

¹©2007 NAEYC. Reprinted with permission. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). 2007.
NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria: The Mark of Quality in Early Childhood Education.
Washington, DC: Author: www.naeyc.org/academy.