

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and what is NAEYC accreditation?

For more than 80 years, the National Association for the Education of Young Children has worked to raise the quality of early childhood programs. Based in Washington, D.C., NAEYC is our country's premier professional association for the education of young children and the programs that serve them.

Why should we choose a program that has achieved NAEYC accreditation?

- * NAEYC accreditation program standards are based on the latest research in early childhood education and child development.
- * NAEYC accreditation is solely focused on early childhood programs and ensures that the program has met and maintains the highest national standards for educational and developmentally appropriate practices.
- * Less than five percent of our nation's early childhood centers have achieved NAEYC accreditation!
- * NAEYC accredited programs are subject to unannounced visits by NAEYC assessors to make sure standards are being maintained.



The NAEYC Academy sets and monitors nearly 500 standards for high-quality early childhood education programs and accredits programs that meet these standards. According to the Minnesota Association for the Education of Children (MNAEYC), Ladybug scored in the top one percent in each of the 10 standard areas:

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| * Relationships | * Community Relationships |
| * Curriculum | * Health |
| * Teaching | * Physical Environment |
| * Assessment of Child Progress | * Leadership and Management |
| * Teachers | * Families |

Management, teaching staff, and families evaluate the program prior to the review by the NAEYC assessor, and this process can take up to a year to complete.

Is there a difference between licensing and accreditation?

A license is a required to legally operate a child care center in Minnesota. Ladybug Child Care Centers hold a license to operate from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. NAEYC accreditation is a voluntary system which programs measure themselves against rigorous standards. Ladybug has been evaluated by an assessor assigned by NAEYC, and accreditation was determined by a national commission appointed for this purpose. Ladybug is licensed by the State of Minnesota and accredited by NAEYC.

For additional information on NAEYC accreditation, visit the organization's Web site at naeyc.org.