

Preschool at New Bedford YMCA Receives NAEYC Accreditation February 2008

The New Bedford YMCA Preschool recently earned its reaccreditation from the National Association for Young Children. Under NAEYC's new accreditation process, the program underwent an extensive self-study process, assessing the program against the new standards set by the National Association for Young Children, as well as over 400 accreditation criteria. In completing the self-study, the center then applied for candidacy and was well on its way to accreditation.

In 1985, NAEYC established a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs. In September 2006, NAEYC released new standards in order to assure that programs seeking accreditation are guiding children according to the best practices set forth by the association. By utilizing community efforts, honoring families, and implementing valuable learning experiences for children, NAEYC sets the bar for early childhood programs nationwide.

Receiving- and maintaining accreditation status is a significant achievement for which the teaching staff at the New Bedford YMCA Preschool worked very hard to achieve. The Early Education and Care certified teaching staffs, believe strongly in NAEYC and its purpose, "To encourage programs to engage in a structured approach to program improvement that considers all of the necessary components of a high quality program."

The NAEYC Academy, after visiting and evaluating the program, commended the New Bedford YMCA Preschool for implementing a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children, as well as for promoting learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive. Michelle Roderick, Executive Director of the New Bedford YMCA said, "It is with great pride that the YMCA Preschool located in the New Bedford YMCA, a division of YMCA Southcoast, announces its successful completion of the re-accreditation process. I commend the Preschool staff for their hard work and diligence."