



## NAFCC Accreditation

Approximately 1,000,000 family child care providers in the United States care for and educate about 4,000,000 children. In the past, family child care has been largely invisible, simple a part of our society.

Today the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) serves as a national voice and networking system for family child care.

A professional development movement is emerging across the country, as providers reject the role of 'babysitter' and instead seek to offer excellent care and education to young children and their families.

While most providers begin this work somewhat casually as an extension of their own parenting, those who go on to make an intentional career choice tend to offer higher quality care – thus their title 'intentional caregiver'.

Professional development activities, especially training and accreditation, support providers in this important endeavor. NAFCC Accreditation was designed to promote and recognize high quality in family child care.

What does NAFCC Accreditation do for providers, families and communities?

- Define standards of quality for the field of family child care
- Help parents and policy-makers recognize high quality family child care
- Promote providers' self-assessment and professional development
- Motivate providers to put training into practice
- Serve as a cornerstone in state professional development systems.

### The Quality Standards:

The standards describe a holistic view of quality in family child care, organized into six sections: ***Relationships, The Environment, The Activities, Developmental Learning Goals, Safety and Health, and Professional and Business Practices.***

Providers are encouraged to use the Quality Standards in a self-study process to prepare for accreditation. These standards are available for providers in workbook format.

## Eligibility Requirements:

To apply for NAFCC Accreditation, a provider must:

- be at least 21 years old ;
  - have a high school diploma or GED (a waiver may be obtained under certain conditions);
  - complete 120 hours of documented training - which may be completed during the self-study process before the Observer visit;
  - meet local and state regulations (if applicable).
3. Design a Professional Development Plan, using the resources available, to prepare for accreditation.
  4. Join a training class, self-study group, and/or get help from a mentor or advisor if available.
  5. Make Quality improvements.
  6. Notify NAFCC when you are ready to schedule your Observer visit.
  7. Complete the information in the Observer Visit Packet.

## Recommended Provider 'Steps' in the Accreditation Process:

1. Review the Quality Standards in the provider workbook to reflect upon and evaluate the quality of the family child care program.
2. Identify areas for quality improvement to meet the Quality Standards.

For more information, please contact the NAFCC office:  
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