

Sunbeam Child Care Center LLC Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process

Submitted by Helen Post-Brown, Director, Sunbeam Child Care Center

Sunbeam Child Care Center LLC located in Fairmont, West Virginia, is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) using the “new” accreditation system. NAEYC is the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.



“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Helen Post-Brown, owner/director of Sunbeam. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

Sunbeam Child Care Center is unique because it is located in a quiet residential setting in the rear of the owner/director’s home. The center was established in the fall of 1980 as “Sunbeam Nursery School”. It has evolved over the years into a nationally accredited child care center, licensed for 109 children with 25 employees. Sunbeam was first accredited in the fall of 1998. The center received its second accreditation in 2002.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the revised system, Sunbeam went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. “The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

Three Centers in West Virginia Meet the Mark

Three child care centers in West Virginia have met NAEYC’s new rigorous accreditation standards. Congratulations to:

Lasting Impressions Child Development Center
Clarksburg, WV

Playmates Preschool and Child Care Centers Inc.
(Site II)
Lavalette, WV

Sunbeam Child Care Center
Fairmont, WV

Accredited centers now receive accreditation for 5 years instead of 3 years. Centers are required to send reports in each year to maintain compliance.

While NAEYC accreditation may seem like a lot of work (and it is!), it is certainly an accomplishment that signals to the rest of the community that the center is providing high quality early care and education to West Virginia’s children.

For more information on accreditation, you can visit NAEYC’s website at www.naeyc.org