

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Accreditation?

- A. Accreditation is a voluntary process that early childhood and school age after school programs can choose to go through. The process involves the program doing a self assessment which addresses every aspect of their operations. Then trained individuals observe or validate the program's self assessment. The observations of the trained individuals are used along with the program's self evaluation to make the decision to accredit the program.

2. Who do I get my accreditation from?

- A. In Missouri, early childhood programs can choose between state accreditation or national accreditation.

MOA (Missouri Accreditation) is available to family child care programs, programs serving children 0-12 and school age programs.

NAFCC Accreditation (National Association for Family Child Care) is a national accreditation for family child care programs and group home programs.

NAEYC Accreditation (National Association for the Education of Young Children) is a national accreditation for center based programs serving children 0-5.

3. Why should I get accredited?

- A. Accreditation says that your program is committed to quality for children. This level of commitment sets you apart from the average childcare program. In Missouri, the Department of Social Services (DSS) recognizes the importance of quality care for children. DSS has authorized an increase in the amount paid to accredited programs for tuition subsidies for low income children. For more information on the signs of a quality early childhood program, please visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation/naeyc_accred/info_general-faq3.asp.

4. How do I know if my program is ready for accreditation?

- A. Each of the accreditation systems has information on their website about the criteria your program needs to meet to become accredited. You can also contact your local CCR&R to request an accreditation readiness walk through. They will either assign a member of their staff to assist you or help you contact a local partner such as Educare or Project REACH.

5. How do I find out more about the different accreditation systems?

- A. For more information on MOA, please visit www.moaccreditation.org .
For more information on NAEYC accreditation, please visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation/default.asp .
For more information on NAFCC accreditation, please visit <http://www.nafcc.org/accreditation/accreditation.asp>.

6. Where can I find help with my self study process?

- A. Contact your CCR&R for phone technical assistance. They may also be able to refer you to a Technical Assistance Facilitation project in your area. Space in these projects is limited due to funding constraints.