



# Lincoln Public Schools

Michael F. Brandmeyer  
Superintendent of Schools

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To: School Committee  
From: Mickey Brandmeyer, Superintendent  
Re: NAEYC Accreditation Awarded  
Date: April 14, 2011

The Lincoln Public Schools is proud to announce that, under the leadership of Stephen McKenna, the Lincoln School Kindergarten has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Teachers Becky Eston, Rachel Scheff, Blake Siskavich, Jenn Cummings, and Pat Hatsopoulos, Nurse Maureen Richichi, Assistants Kathleen Xenakis, Maureen Tryder, Cheryl Johnson and Joyce Dennis have worked diligently over the past three years in preparing the school to achieve this accomplishment. Administrator for Business and Finance, Buckner Creel, Facilities Coordinator, Michael Haines and Recreation Department Director, Dan Pereira all made substantive contributions as well.

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. Today, NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. Over 7,500 childcare programs, preschools, early learning centers, and other center- or school-based early childhood education programs are currently NAEYC-Accredited. These programs provide high quality care and education to nearly one million young children in the United States, its territories, and programs affiliated with the United States Department of Defense.

Accreditation is a voluntary process in which programs participate in self assessment to gauge how closely the program meets the standards. Standards are defined in 10 areas: Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment of Child Progress, Health, Teachers, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment, and Leadership and Management. The Smith team went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten 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.

Through the accreditation system, NAEYC uses the standards and criteria to define program quality and to recognize programs that have demonstrated the capacity to sustain quality over time. This is a prestigious recognition that is to be acknowledged as a mark of excellence. To find out more about NAEYC, visit their website at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).



April 07, 2011

Stephen Mckenna , Principal  
Lincoln Public Schools Kindergarten (532731)  
6 Ballfield Road  
Lincoln, MA 01773

Dear Stephen Mckenna ,

**Congratulations!** Your program has achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The administration, teaching staff, and families of **Lincoln Public Schools Kindergarten** are all to be congratulated for earning the mark of quality represented by the NAEYC Accreditation system. On behalf of NAEYC, and specifically the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation, I commend your program's outstanding efforts in pursuing NAEYC Accreditation. Please note that this accreditation decision report is specific to the data collected during the NAEYC Site Visit only. If you have submitted a critical incident to NAEYC via the 72-hour notification form the outcome of the Scope and Severity Screen will be forthcoming under separate cover.

This letter includes information about the term of your NAEYC Accreditation as well as information about publicizing your accredited status. Attached to this letter you will find the Accreditation Decision Report that includes a summary of scores for each of the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and suggestions for ongoing improvement by topic area based on the data collected during the site visit for use in your annual report.

#### **TERM OF NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

Your NAEYC Accreditation is granted on March 24, 2011 and is valid until April 01, 2016. (Anniversary Date)

To maintain NAEYC Accreditation, your program is required to maintain compliance with the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria. Additionally all NAEYC Accredited programs are:

- Required to file an Annual Report and applicable fees on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th anniversary of the above Accreditation date;
- Required to report to the NAEYC Academy major programmatic changes within 30 days and event(s)/incident(s) related to potential required criteria violations within 72 hours (see [www.naeyc.org/academy](http://www.naeyc.org/academy) for more information regarding Self Report instructions and timeframes);
- Eligible to be randomly selected for an unannounced site visit;
- Required to respond to formal complaints and adhere to NAEYC's Complaint Policies and Procedures; and
- Required to agree to additional verification by adhering to NAEYC's Verification of Continued Compliance Policy.

Please, visit our website at <http://www.naeyc.org/academy> and your program record at <http://program.naeyc.org> for complete information and details on new policies, procedures and any announcements related to your NAEYC Accreditation.

## NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation

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### **PUBLICIZING NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

In order to properly display your NAEYC Accredited status, the following information will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. The sample news release and camera ready logo will be posted in your program record (<http://program.naeyc.org>) for continued access.

- NAEYC Accreditation Certificate for public display.
- “Maintaining NAEYC Accreditation” flyer.
- Sample news release, so that you can publicize your NAEYC Accreditation (<http://program.naeyc.org>)
- Flyers for parents, describing what NAEYC Accreditation means.
- Identifying ribbons for you and your staff members to attach to a name badge when you attend conferences or public meetings.
- Camera-ready NAEYC Academy logo, which may be used freely on any printed materials such as stationery or brochures (<http://program.naeyc.org>).
- Samples of our new “NAEYC Accreditation: The Right Choice for Kids” brochures in English.
- NAEYC Accreditation Decal.

Please be sure to carefully review this information and share it as relevant with your teaching staff, administration and families. We encourage you to regularly visit your program record at <http://program.naeyc.org> to keep your program information up-to-date and to stay current regarding new policies, procedures and updates that occur throughout the term of your NAEYC Accreditation.

Thank you for making the commitment to pursue NAEYC Accreditation. Working together, we can improve the lives of children and families across the nation by building public recognition and support for NAEYC Accreditation, the mark of quality in early childhood education. Now that you have achieved this mark of quality we look forward to continuing to work with you throughout your accreditation term in a process of continuous improvement, the hallmark of any accreditation system.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact us at 800-424-2460, select Option 3, followed by Option 1. You may also e-mail us at [accreditation.information@naeyc.org](mailto:accreditation.information@naeyc.org).

Sincerely,  
NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation

cc: Becky Eston (via e-mail)

**NAEYC ACCREDITATION DECISION REPORT**

**Format of the Report**

**Summary:** This table shows your program's scores\* for 1) each of the ten Program Standards, 2) each group observed during the site visit, 3) all required criteria, and 4) all Candidacy requirements. It also includes brief feedback on your Program Portfolio and Classroom Portfolio(s). To achieve NAEYC Accreditation, a program MUST:

- meet all Required Criteria; and
- meet at least 80% of assessed criteria for each program standard; and
- meet at least 70% of assessed criteria for each classroom/group observed; and
- continue to meet Candidacy requirements or be subject to further verification.

**Commendations:** This section contains Program Standards which received a score of 100%.

**Areas For Ongoing Improvement By Program Standard:** This section contains the Program Standards which met or exceeded the NAEYC Accreditation threshold of 80%. These contain topic areas for ongoing improvement.

## NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation

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### Summary

<u>Percentage of Met Criteria By Program Standard</u>		<u>Percentage of Met Criteria For Each Classroom Observed</u>	
1.	Relationships	100%	Eston 98%
2.	Curriculum	92%	Siskavich 99%
3.	Teaching	100%	
4.	Assessment	100+*	
5.	Health	100%	
6.	Teachers	100+*	
7.	Families	100+*	
8.	Community Relationships	100+*	
9.	Physical Environment	95%	
10.	Leadership and Management	100+*	

<u>Summary of Required Criteria</u>		<u>Candidacy Requirements</u>	
1.B.09	PASS	Administrator Qualifications	MET
3.C.04	PASS	Assistant Teacher Qualifications	MET
5.A.03	PASS	Collaboration	MET
10.A.02	PASS	License/License Exempt Status	MET
10.B.04	PASS	Teacher Qualifications	MET

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\* Score includes credit given for meeting Emerging Criteria. Please note that even if your program scored 100% or better on a particular Program Standard, there still may be topic areas reported for ongoing improvements. This can occur because Emerging Criteria are given extra credit when scoring. Therefore, there could be unmet criteria in a particular topic area although the credit given for meeting the emerging criteria raised the Program Standard score to 100% or more

**Summary Continued**

Program Portfolio Feedback

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for creating a Program Portfolio that thoroughly documents how the program's policies and procedures meet the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria assessed.

Classroom Portfolio(s) Feedback

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for creating Classroom Portfolio(s) that offer detailed and clear documentation of how your program's classrooms meet the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria assessed.

### **COMMENDATIONS**

#### **1. Relationships**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for promoting positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and to foster each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member.

#### **3. Teaching**

The Academy commends your program for using developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the program's curriculum goals.

#### **4. Assessment**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for using ongoing, systematic, formal and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development. These assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop. Assessment results are used to benefit children by informing sound decisions about children, teaching, and program improvement.

#### **5. Health**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for promoting the nutrition and health of children and protecting children and staff from illness and injury.

#### **6. Teachers**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for employing and supporting a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.

#### **7. Families**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for the high level of compliance with this component. Recognizing the importance of a reciprocal relationship between families and programs is essential to ensure that programs are meeting the needs of the children and families that the program serves.

#### **8. Community Relationships**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for effectively establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with agencies and institutions that can support it in achieving its goals for the curriculum, health promotion, children's transitions, inclusion, and diversity.

#### **10. Leadership and Management**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for administering a program efficiently and effectively, ensuring that all involved persons, staff, children, and families are included. The way in which a program is administered will affect all the interactions within the program.

**AREAS FOR ONGOING IMPROVEMENT BY PROGRAM STANDARD**

**2. Curriculum**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for implementing a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive.

A curriculum that draws on research assists teachers in identifying important concepts and skills as well as effective methods for fostering children’s learning and development. When informed by teachers’ knowledge of individual children, a well-articulated curriculum guides teachers so they can plan learning experiences that foster children’s growth across a broad range of developmental and content areas. A curriculum also helps ensure that the teacher is intentional in planning a daily schedule that (a) maximizes children’s acquisition of desired knowledge and skills through the effective use of time and materials and (b) offers opportunities for children to learn through play and structured activities individually and in groups according to their developmental needs and interests.

**Topic areas for ongoing improvement:**

- 2.J Curriculum Content Area for Cognitive Development: Creative Expression and Appreciation for the Arts
- 2.L Curriculum Content Area for Cognitive Development: Social Studies

**9. Physical Environment**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for creating an environment, both indoors and outdoors that fosters the growth and development of the children.

The program’s design and maintenance of its physical environment support high-quality program activities and services as well as allow for optimal use and operation. Well-organized, equipped, and maintained environments support program quality by fostering the learning, comfort, health, and safety of those who use the program. Program quality is enhanced by also creating a welcoming and accessible setting for children, families, and staff.

**Topic areas for ongoing improvement:**

- 9.C Building and Physical Design



# National Association for the Education of Young Children

Having met the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards,

*Lincoln Public Schools Kindergarten*

*6 Ballfield Road  
Lincoln, MA 01773  
Program ID 532731*

is hereby awarded

## NAEYC Accreditation

by the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation

04/01/2016

Certificate is valid until date above.

[www.rightchoiceforkids.org](http://www.rightchoiceforkids.org)  
[accreditation.information@naeyc.org](mailto:accreditation.information@naeyc.org)  
800-424-2460



*Mark R. Ginsberg*  
Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
NAEYC Executive Director