



## LINCOLN PRESCHOOL

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To: School Committee  
From: Lynn Fagan, Preschool Coordinator  
Re: NAEYC Accreditation Awarded  
Date: December 19, 2011

The Lincoln Public Schools is proud to announce that the Lincoln Preschool has received re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Lincoln Preschool initially achieved accreditation in 2007. In the spring of this year, we applied for the renewal of candidacy with site visits occurring on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. Teachers Maureen Cullen, Dayna Brown, Karen LoRusso, Catherine List, Diane Mackenzie, Jennifer Wakeling and Lynne Cushing worked attentively over the past three years in preparing the program to achieve this accomplishment. Mickey Brandmeyer, Superintendent, Buck Creel, Administrator for Business and Finance, Michael Haines, Facilities Coordinator, Dan Pereira, Lincoln Parks and Recreation Director, Stephanie Powers, Administrator for Student Services, and Suzanne Stendahl, Administrative Assistant for Student Services all made contributions.

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).