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Hilltop Child and Family Development Center Earns National NAEYC Accreditation

Program recognized among the top in the nation by earning accreditation

St. Louis, Missouri – Hilltop Child and Family Development Center (Hilltop) located at 6155 West Florissant Avenue has earned accreditation from the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC)—the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous and transformative quality-improvement system that uses a [set of 10 research-based standards](#) to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments. “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 Julie McAfee, Hilltop Director. In addition to early childhood education and childcare services, Hilltop now provides expanded, integrated services that will fill a gap in the North St. Louis community. These newly introduced services include prenatal classes, parenting courses, individual and family counseling.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Hilltop went through an extensive self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the ten program standards, and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. NAEYC-accredited programs are always prepared for unannounced quality-assurance visits during their accreditation term, which lasts for five years.

In the 30 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC—less than **10 percent** of all child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

“NAEYC-Accredited programs bring our definitions of excellence for early childhood education to life each day,” said Kristen Johnson, senior director of Early Learning Program Accreditation at NAEYC. “Earning NAEYC Accreditation makes Hilltop Child and Family Development Center an exemplar of good practice for families and the entire community.”

For more information about NAEYC Accreditation, visit [the NAEYC website](#).

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