

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Congregational Church Daycare & Nursery has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. This prestigious recognition has been achieved by approximately 7% of early childhood programs nationwide. More than 8,000 early childhood programs – serving nearly three-quarters of a million children are currently accredited by NAEYC. “In recent years, we’ve seen a growing number of child care and pre-school programs earning NAEYC Accreditation”, said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “By earning accreditation, First Church Daycare & Nursery has become a leader in a national effort to raise the quality of childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Childcare centers, pre-schools, kindergartens, and before and after school programs are eligible to seek accreditation. Programs must undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators, and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit conducted by early childhood professionals especially trained by NAEYC to validate their self-study results. All this information is independently reviewed by a team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation. When awarded accreditation is valid for five years.

“The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child’s experience,” said Barbara Willer, spokesperson for NAEYC. The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications, and physical environment. The greatest emphasis is on the child’s relationship with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.”

First Congregational Church Daycare & Nursery is located at 111 Church Drive and serves 50 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years old in a morning and full day preschool setting. “First Church will now proudly display the NAEYC torch, the sign of NAEYC Accreditation”, stated Marilyn Donovan, the Director. Parents who look for the torch when choosing childcare or early childhood education programs for their children will find programs which have made a commitment to excellence for young children and families.