



The Treatment and  
Learning Centers

**TLC**

*a family of services where caring comes first*

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## **TLC'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

*Program among the top in the nation for early childhood education*

[Rockville, MD] – [TLC's Early Learning Center](#) (ELC) located in North Potomac, MD has earned its second accreditation from the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"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 **Dr. Patricia Ritter, Executive Director of [The Treatment and Learning Centers](#)** (TLC), and **Kelly King**, Director of ELC. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." The Early Learning Center is part of TLC, a local, private, non-profit organization established in 1950, and has been supporting working families in the local community with quality childcare and preschool programs for 24 years.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, **The Early Learning Center** 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 to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 25 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 – approximately **8 percent** of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

"The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for child care centers and other early childhood programs," said Jerlean E. Daniel, Ph.D, executive director of NAEYC. "Having earned NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that **The Early Learning Center** is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education."

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The NAEYC Accreditation system was also created to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. For more information about NAEYC, visit [www.naeyc.org/academy](http://www.naeyc.org/academy).

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The Early Learning Center • The Outpatient Services • The Testing and Tutoring Service • TLC's Summer Programs