

News Release: ARC Broward Receives NAEYC Accreditation - October 2001

ARC Broward, a private, not-for-profit organization assisting and supporting children and adults with disabilities, was recently granted accreditation by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* for their early childhood program. This prestigious recognition has been achieved by approximately 7% of early childhood programs nationwide.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators and classroom observations. On-site visits are conducted by early childhood professionals to validate the self-study results. "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 children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally."