

## ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS/CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

In accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 264, enacted by the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2011), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has approved the following accreditations and certifications/certification programs as “quality child care indicators.” You can search accredited early childhood education programs by using [FindChildCareNow.org](http://FindChildCareNow.org).

### ACCREDITATIONS

#### **National Association for the Education of Young Children**

The [National Association for the Education of Young Children](http://www.naeyc.org) (NAEYC) administers a voluntary, professionally sponsored accreditation system for all types of preschools, kindergartens and child care centers. The NAEYC accreditation program includes a self-assessment, program improvements, assessment by an external observer and a renewal process. Programs must meet early childhood program standards in all classrooms.

<http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation>

#### **National Early Childhood Program Accreditation**

The National Child Care Association developed the [National Early Childhood Program Accreditation](http://necpa.net) (NECPA) for licensed child care programs with a capacity of seven or more children. This voluntary program includes a self-assessment, program action plan, parent and staff survey, an assessment by an external validator and a renewal process. Programs must meet quality standards in all classrooms.

<http://necpa.net/page/NECPAStandards>

#### **Association for Early Learning Leaders | National Accreditation Commission**

The [Association for Early Learning Leaders](http://www.earlylearningleaders.org) (AELL) administers an accreditation program through the National Accreditation Commission’s standards for child care programs that have an enrollment of fifteen or more children and operate on a half or full-day basis. This voluntary program includes a self-study, an action plan, validation by an external observer, annual reports, and an optional faith-based component. Programs must meet quality standards in all classrooms.

<http://www.earlylearningleaders.org/>

#### **Association of Christian Schools International**

The [Association of Christian Schools International](http://www.acsi.org) (ACSI) administers an accreditation program for Christian schools, including early education programs within the schools. This voluntary program includes a self-study, team validation by peer review and annual reports. Programs must meet standards.

<https://www.acsi.org/school-services/accreditation>

#### **National Association for Family Child Care**

The [National Association for Family Child Care](http://www.nafcc.org) (NAFCC) has established an accreditation program specifically for family child care homes. This voluntary program includes a self-study and observation by an external validator. Programs must meet quality standards.

<https://www.nafcc.org/Accreditation>

#### **National AfterSchool Association**

The [National AfterSchool Association](http://coanet.org) (NAA) has established an accreditation program specifically for after school programs. This voluntary program is now administered by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and includes program services, a self-study and observation by an external reviewer.

<http://coanet.org/accreditation/accreditation-overview/>

## **CERTIFICATIONS/CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

Certification programs are administered under state government auspices and are not national systems. They are voluntary programs for specific categories of participating early childhood education providers.

### **Texas Rising Star**

A [Texas Rising Star](#) (TRS) provider is a child care provider that has an agreement with a local Workforce Development Board to serve TWC subsidized children and that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Licensing Standards for child care facilities. The TRS provider certification system provides graduated levels of certification as providers meet progressively higher certification requirements. Certification as a TRS provider is available to Licensed Center, Licensed Child Care Home, and Registered Child Care Home providers that meet the certification criteria.

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/provcert.html>

### **Texas School Ready!™ Project Provider**

The [Texas School Ready! project](#) is an approach which serves at-risk preschool-aged children in child care, Head Start and public pre-kindergarten early childhood education programs early childhood education program. Texas School Ready! focuses on increasing children's school readiness through five evidence-based components: research-based curriculum, child progress monitoring, teacher professional development, ongoing teacher mentoring, and participation in the Texas School Readiness Certification System (SRCS). One or more classrooms in a Texas School Ready site may participate in the project for up to three years.

<http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/TX-school-ready/>