



**June 11, 2012**

**Rhonda Antonia Ciancio- Uszenski, Owner  
Little Harvard (541606)  
63 Lawrence Avenue  
New Windsor, NY, 12553**

Dear **Ms. Rhonda Antonia Ciancio - Uszenski,**

*Congratulations!* Your program has achieved a new, five-year term of NAEYC Accreditation by successfully completing the renewal process. The administration, teaching staff, and families of **Little Harvard** are all to be congratulated for continuing to uphold the mark of quality represented by the NAEYC Accreditation system. On behalf of NAEYC, and specifically the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation, we commend your program's outstanding efforts in renewing NAEYC Accreditation.

This letter includes information about your program's new term of NAEYC Accreditation as well as information about publicizing your accredited status. Attached to this letter you will find the Accreditation Decision Report that includes a summary of scores for each of the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and suggestions for ongoing improvement by topic area based on the data collected during the site visit for use in your annual report.

#### **TERM OF NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

Your new term of NAEYC Accreditation will begin on **June 11, 2012** and is valid until **September 1, 2017.**

To maintain NAEYC Accreditation, your program is required to maintain compliance with the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria. Additionally all NAEYC Accredited programs are:

- Required to file an Annual Report and applicable fees on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the above Accreditation date;
- Required to report any potential required criteria violations within 72 hours of the incident or event;
- Required to report program altering changes to the NAEYC Academy within 30 days of the change;
- Eligible to be randomly selected for an unannounced site visit;
- Required to respond to formal complaints and adhere to NAEYC's Complaint Policies and Procedures; and
- Required to agree to additional verification upon request.

Please, visit our website at <http://www.naeyc.org/academy> for complete information and details on new policies, procedures and any announcements related to your NAEYC Accreditation.



### **PUBLICIZING NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

The following information will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. This information will assist you in publicizing your program's continued NAEYC-Accredited status and understanding requirements and fees associated with your program's new term of NAEYC Accreditation.

- A new NAEYC Accreditation Certificate for public display.
- Flyers for parents, describing what NAEYC Accreditation means (in sufficient quantity for your enrollment for the next 5 years).
- "NAEYC-Accredited Program" ribbons for you and your staff members to attach to a name badge when you attend conferences or public meetings.
- Samples of "NAEYC Accreditation: The Right Choice for Kids" brochures in English.
- "NAEYC Accreditation Resources Catalogue" to use to purchase additional materials to promote your program's NAEYC Accreditation.
- "Maintaining NAEYC Accreditation" flyer to remind you how to maintain your program's new term of NAEYC Accreditation.
- "NAEYC Accreditation Fees" flyer to explain the fee structure that will apply to your program's new term of NAEYC Accreditation.

Note that the camera ready logo and other electronic versions of accreditation resources are still posted in your [program record](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to program quality improvement through NAEYC Accreditation. Working together, we can improve the lives of children and families across the nation by building public recognition and support for NAEYC Accreditation, the mark of quality in early childhood education. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout your new accreditation term in a process of continuous improvement, the hallmark of any accreditation system.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact us at 800-424-2460, select Option 3, followed by Option 1. You may also e-mail us at [accreditation.information@naeyc.org](mailto:accreditation.information@naeyc.org).

Sincerely,  
NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation

cc: Heather Barrett(VIA EMAIL)

**NAEYC ACCREDITATION DECISION REPORT**

**Format of the Report**

**Summary:** This table shows your program’s scores\* for 1) each of the ten Program Standards, 2) each group observed during the site visit, 3) all required criteria, and 4) all Candidacy requirements. It also includes brief feedback on your Program Portfolio and Classroom Portfolio(s). To achieve NAEYC Accreditation, a program MUST:

- meet all Required Criteria; and
- meet at least 80% of assessed criteria for each program standard; and
- meet at least 70% of assessed criteria for each classroom/group observed; and
- continue to meet Candidacy requirements or be subject to further verification.

**Commendations:** This section contains Program Standards which received a score of 100%.

**Areas For Ongoing Improvement By Program Standard:** This section contains the Program Standards which met or exceeded the NAEYC Accreditation threshold of 80%. These contain topic areas for ongoing improvement.

<u>Percentage of Met Criteria By Program Standard:</u>	<b>Summary</b>	<u>Percentage of Met Criteria For Each Classroom Observed:</u>	
1. Relationships	100%	Toddler 1	97%
2. Curriculum	90%	Threes	98%
3. Teaching	100%	Infants	96%
4. Assessment of Child Progress	100+*		
5. Health	100+*		
6. Teachers	86%		
7. Families	100+*		
8. Community Relationships	100+*		
9. Physical Environment	95%*		
10. Leadership and Management	100+*		

<u>Summary of Required Criteria</u>		<u>Candidacy Requirements</u>	
1.B.09	Met	License/License Exempt Status	Met
3.C.02	Met	Collaboration	Met
3.C.04	Met	Administrator Qualifications	Met
5.A.03	Met	Teacher Qualifications	Met
5.A.12	Met	Assistant Teacher Qualifications	Met
10.A.02	Met		
10.B.04	Met		

\* Score includes credit given for meeting Emerging Criteria. Please note that even if your program scored 100% or better on a particular Program Standard, there still may be topic areas reported for ongoing improvements. This can occur because Emerging Criteria are given extra credit when scoring. Therefore, there could be unmet criteria in a particular topic area although the credit given for meeting the emerging criteria raised the Program Standard score to 100% or more.



## **Summary Continued**

### Program Portfolio Feedback

The NAEYC Academy notes that your Program Portfolio adequately documents how the program's policies and procedures meet most of the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria assessed. However, it is recommended that your program further develop this source of evidence with additional documentation that is clearly described, labeled, and organized.

### Classroom Portfolio(s) Feedback

The NAEYC Academy notes that your Classroom Portfolio(s) offers adequate evidence for most of the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria assessed. However, it is recommended that your program further develop this source of evidence with additional documentation that is clearly described, labeled, and organized.

## **COMMENDATIONS**

### **1. RELATIONSHIPS**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for promoting positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and to foster each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member.

### **3. TEACHING**

The Academy commends your program for using developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the program's curriculum goals.

### **4. ASSESSMENT OF CHILD PROGRESS**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for using ongoing, systematic, formal and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development. These assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop. Assessment results are used to benefit children by informing sound decisions about children, teaching, and program improvement.

### **5. HEALTH**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for promoting the nutrition and health of children and protecting children and staff from illness and injury.

### **7. FAMILIES**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for the high level of compliance with this component. Recognizing the importance of a reciprocal relationship between families and programs is essential to ensure that programs are meeting the needs of the children and families that the program serves.

### **8. COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for effectively establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with agencies and institutions that can support it in achieving its goals for the curriculum, health promotion, children's transitions, inclusion, and diversity.

### **10. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for administering a program efficiently and effectively, ensuring that all involved persons, staff, children, and families are included. The way in which a program is administered will affect all the interactions within the program.

## **Areas For Ongoing Improvement By Program Standard**

### **2. CURRICULUM**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for implementing a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive.

A curriculum that draws on research assists teachers in identifying important concepts and skills as well as effective methods for fostering children's learning and development. When informed by teachers' knowledge of individual children, a well-articulated curriculum guides teachers so they can plan learning experiences that foster children's growth across a broad range of developmental and content areas. A curriculum also helps ensure that the teacher is intentional in planning a daily schedule that (a) maximizes children's acquisition of desired knowledge and skills through the effective use of time and materials and (b) offers opportunities for children to learn through play and structured activities individually and in groups according to their developmental needs and interests.

#### **Topic areas for ongoing improvement:**

- 2. F Curriculum Content Area for Cognitive Development: Early Mathematics
- 2. G Curriculum Content Area for Cognitive Development: Science
- 2. L Curriculum Content Area for Cognitive Development: Social Studies

### **6. TEACHERS**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for employing and supporting a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.

The NAEYC Academy commends your teachers and assistants who fully meet the criteria related to educational qualifications (6.A.04 and 6A.05) For those staff members who do not now fully meet the criteria, please encourage and provide support for staff to pursue ongoing training and education in the field of early childhood education and/or child development.

Children benefit most when their teachers have high levels of formal education and specialized early childhood professional preparation. Opportunities for teaching staff to receive supportive supervision and to participate in ongoing professional development ensure that their knowledge and skills reflect the profession's ever-changing knowledge base.

#### **Topic areas for ongoing improvement:**

- 6. A Preparation, Knowledge, and Skills of Teaching Staff
- 6. B Teachers' Dispositions and Professional Commitment



## **9. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

The NAEYC Academy commends your program for creating an environment, both indoors and outdoors that fosters the growth and development of the children.

The program's design and maintenance of its physical environment support high-quality program activities and services as well as allow for optimal use and operation. Well-organized, equipped, and maintained environments support program quality by fostering the learning, comfort, health, and safety of those who use the program. Program quality is enhanced by also creating a welcoming and accessible setting for children, families, and staff.

### **Topic areas for ongoing improvement:**

- 9. C Building and Physical Design

**- END OF REPORT -**