



**NECPA**  
National Early Childhood  
Program Accreditation

Encouraging Quality... Recognizing Excellence.

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## **PROGRAM CRITERIA POLICY**

In order to enroll in the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation a program must:

1. Be licensed by the state child care licensing agency. The NECPA Commission will consider programs that are exempt from licensure on a case-by-case basis and may accept the standards and processes of other approval bodies in lieu of a license.
2. Serve children younger than five years. Programs with a before and after school component for school-age children will be accredited provided the majority of the children in this portion of the program are eight years old or younger. Programs that serve only school-age children will not qualify for NECPA accreditation.

A program must have been licensed and in operation for at least one year before accreditation can be awarded. Currently accredited programs, which relocate prior to their three year expiration date, are exempt from waiting one year before accreditation can be awarded. Programs may enroll in NECPA prior to the first anniversary of their license.