Benefits of Accreditation

There are many benefits to the accreditation process. Maine Roads to Quality can support you with this work!

What are the benefits of accreditation?

Accreditation through NAFCC has many benefits - for you and your program, for children, for families, and for the community!

1. Accreditation outlines the standards of high quality for family child care programs.
   The accreditation standards help strengthen the profession of family child care by clearing defining quality standards, but allowing for "many right ways" for individual programs to demonstrate quality practice.

2. Accreditation promotes programs' use of self-assessment and increases professionalism in the field of early care and education.
   Achieving accreditation keeps practitioners excited about their work and increases their self-esteem.

3. Accreditation gives parents and policy makers an easy way to recognize high-quality programs.
   Families who enroll their children in accredited programs that reach Step 4 with Quality for ME are eligible for a double child care tax credit on their Maine incomes taxes.

4. Programs that earn accreditation and a Step 4 with Quality for ME are eligible for increased reimbursement rates for children receiving subsidized child care.
   This "quality bump" increase income for the program without impacting parent fees.

5. Accreditation helps programs develop important relationships within their community with other organizations offering services to families.
   For example, in some districts accredited family child care programs are eligible to collaborate with public schools to offer community-based public preschool programs to families.

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How can MRTQ support you in the accreditation process?

Maine Roads to Quality offers the following supports for family child care programs working toward accreditation through NAFCC when they join an accreditation cohort:

- Monthly peer support meetings are held via conference call and additional group support is available online.
- A trained accreditation facilitator will visit your program to answer questions, conduct observations, offer feedback, and provide general support through the process. The facilitator is also available via phone and email.
- The 30-hour MRTQ training "Environments in Early Care and Education" is offered free to cohort members.
- Financial assistance for accreditation fees to NAFCC is available.
- Cohort participants will have the opportunity to apply for mini-grant funds to purchase materials and/or equipment related to accreditation standards.

"[Accreditation] shows others that you really care about your business and that you are willing to take that extra step...by maintaining accreditation, it shows you are committed to quality child care."

- Tammy Dwyer, four-time accredited family child care provider

To Apply:

1. Visit the MRTQ website to download the cohort application form: http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/2014-15_NAFCC_application.pdf
2. Mail in the application to: Maine Roads to Quality Attn: Leslie Pohl PO Box 9300 Portland, ME 04104
3. If you have questions, contact Lee Lingelbach at llingelbach@usm.maine.edu or 207-626-5204.

How can I participate?

Maine Roads to Quality would love to have your program join the cohort!

There is an application process; for more information about the requirements, please download the application form (see “To Apply” to the left).

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