

Info Sheet: Montana Early Care and Education Career Development

MSU Early Childhood Project

Bozeman, Montana

Winter 2013

National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation

What is NAFCC?

NAFCC is a national professional membership organization for early care and education practitioners who have programs that are registered as family or group child care homes (in Montana). NAFCC was chartered in 1982 and established the first national family child care accreditation in 1988.

What is NAFCC Accreditation?

The National Association of Family Child Care and the Family Child Care Project at Wheelock College in Boston developed the new NAFCC accreditation system in 1999, which replaced the process utilized since 1988. A new application, assessment instrument, study workbook, and process were introduced and piloted in four states and by the U.S. Air Force. Accreditation is intended for those providers who meet the child care standards defined by their state licensing and registration agency, and who have demonstrated a commitment to reach beyond minimal requirements to achieve professional standards of excellence in early care and education for young children and their families.

This accreditation is recognized on The Montana Practitioner Registry at a Level 3 with 120 hours of training in the past five years. The fee is \$300 for Enrolling in Self Study with a \$100 additional fee for a co-provider, \$500 for NAFCC Accreditation and \$150 for renewal of first and second year accreditation.

Who is Eligible?

At the time of their Observation Visit, providers must:

- ◆ Offer care and education to children in a home, spending at least 80% of the time with the children
- ◆ Be at least 21 years of age
- ◆ Have a high school diploma or GED
- ◆ Have at least 90 clock hours of relevant training, or a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- ◆ Have at least 18 months experience in family child care, regulated at the highest level available in the state (12 months if participating in an intensive training program)

(OVER)

How Do I Get Started?

1. Call NAFCC at 1.800.359.3817 or go to www.nafcc.org
2. Keep track of all of your training in early care and education so you can document the training you complete. Your online Professional Development Record at www.mtecp.org is always available to you.
3. The Early Childhood Project has scholarships available to cover the cost of accreditation. To be eligible for a scholarship you must be current on The Montana Practitioner Registry and not receiving STARS to Quality incentive funds. A copy of your current Practitioner Registry certificate must accompany your scholarship application.
4. When you are ready to begin the NAFCC accreditation process, submit your completed NAFCC Scholarship Application, Step1. Application for Enrolling in Self Study to the Early Childhood Project. Your scholarship award will be authorized by a letter from the ECP. Your fee will be withdrawn from Montana Scholarship Program's account with NAFCC.
5. Contact the Early Childhood Project (ECP) at 1.800.213.6310 or 406.404-1624 to request a scholarship application or download the application **by visiting** www.mtecp.org. Not current on The Practitioner Registry? Go to the ECP website to apply.

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