

For more information contact:

Debbie Sharpe
719 523-6920

For immediate release:

1/31/18

Springfield Preschool Earns National NAEYC Accreditation

Program recognized among the top in the nation by earning accreditation

Springfield Preschool has earned accreditation from the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC)—the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous and transformative quality-improvement system that uses a [set of 10 research-based standards](#) to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments: **“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,”** said **Debbie Sharpe, Director of Springfield School District’s early learning programs.**

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, **Springfield Preschool** went through an extensive self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the ten program standards, and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. NAEYC-accredited programs are always prepared for unannounced quality-assurance visits during their accreditation term, which lasts for five years.

In the 30 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC—less than **10 percent** of all child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

“NAEYC-Accredited programs bring our definitions of excellence for early childhood education to life each day,” said Kristen Johnson, senior director of Early Learning Program Accreditation at NAEYC. “Earning NAEYC Accreditation makes **Springfield Preschool** an exemplar of good practice for families and the entire community.”

Springfield Preschool was first accredited in 1996. The current preschool team includes Debbie Sharpe-Director, Starla Westphal-PreK Teacher, Kristen Shumate-Preschool Teacher, Brittney Freed & Adrienne Mondragon-Teaching Assistants. The mission of the program is to provide high quality early childhood services to children and their families. Springfield Preschool supports families of children with special needs, children with limited opportunities, or ‘at risk’, and collaborates with other human service providers to strengthen the family as the basic unit of society.

For more information about NAEYC Accreditation, visit [the NAEYC website](#). For more information about Springfield Preschool, [visit Spre4.org](#) or call 523-6920.

###