



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

High-Quality Early Childhood Education Proven at the Pittsfield Family YMCA by National NAEYC Accreditation

MARCH 2, 2010--PITTSFIELD, MA: The local YMCA's Infant, Toddler, and Preschool programs have been ranked top in the nation by the receipt of the NAEYC Accreditation. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. Our Pittsfield YMCA branch received the Accreditation on January 15, 2010 and it is good for a 5 year period. This is the second time that the organization has received the honor.

"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," says Laurie Vanuni Childcare Director at the Pittsfield Family YMCA. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." At the YMCA it is very important that parents know their children are being dropped off at a safe, educational environment. The YMCA wants to start building strong children as early as possible and this Accreditation shows this can happen when a child is only a few months old.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, the YMCA's childcare programming went through an extensive Self-Study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after a site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 23 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Almost 8,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. "The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., Executive Director of NAEYC. "The Pittsfield Family YMCA's NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start."

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level

Pittsfield Family YMCA
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YMCA mission: To put Christian principle into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.



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of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development.

NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

Spots are open within our Toddler and Preschool programs at the Pittsfield Family YMCA and financial aid is also available to those who qualify which can cover up to 80% of the overall cost. **To enroll your child from the age of 15 months to 5 years of age, call the Pittsfield Family YMCA Childcare Director Laurie Vanuni at 413-499-7650 ext. 27 or email her at lvanuni@nycap.rr.com.** More information on our childcare programs and youth involvement can also be found on our website at pittsfieldfamilyymca.org.

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