

## **National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation**

### **What is NAFCC?**

NAFCC is a national professional membership organization for child care providers who work in their own homes. 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.

The accreditation process involves the provider and an NAFCC observer in a comprehensive study of the family or group child care home. This accreditation is recognized on the Montana Early Care and Education 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)

## **How Do I Get Started?**

1. Call NAFCC at 1-800-359-3817 or go to [nafcc.org](http://nafcc.org)
2. Keep track of all of your training in early care and education so you can document the training you complete.
3. The Early Childhood Project has scholarships available to cover the cost of accreditation. To be eligible for a scholarship you must be an active participant on The Montana Practitioner Registry. 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 406-994-4746 to request a scholarship application and an application for the Practitioner Registry if you are not currently an active participant on The Registry. You may also download the scholarship application from the ECP website, [www.montana.edu/ecp](http://www.montana.edu/ecp).



**Early Childhood Project**  
Montana State University  
P.O. Box 173540  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3540  
[ecp@montana.edu](mailto:ecp@montana.edu)  
1-800-213-6310 or 406-994-4746  
[www.montana.edu/ecp](http://www.montana.edu/ecp)

