



Celebrating 25 years of Childcare!

SAC • Sonic • Steps Ahead
Positive Happenings - May 2015

Steps Ahead has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children!



Our Steps Ahead childcare program for 3-5 year-olds, located at the Central Learning Center and Lino Lakes Elementary, is proud to have earned NAEYC Accreditation – the mark of quality for early learning programs. The third Steps Ahead site opened fall of 2014 at Wyoming Elementary and will be working toward accreditation, as well. Our staff have worked eagerly and tirelessly on program and professional improvement over the past two years. Accreditation by NAEYC shows that our program meets the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards of quality childcare. Steps Ahead is open year-round from 6 am to 6 pm.



Where children play, learn, and grow!

Nancy Blocher, School Age Care Coordinator, (651) 982-8364



The 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards

Standard 1: The program promotes positive **relationships** among all children and adults. It encourages each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community.

Standard 2: The program implements a **curriculum** that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.

Standard 3: The program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective **teaching** approaches that enhance each child's learning and development.

Standard 4: The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal and informal, **assessment of child progress** that helps teachers plan appropriately challenging curriculum tailored to each child's strengths and needs.

Standard 5: The program promotes the nutrition, **health**, and safety of children and staff.

Standard 6: The program employs and supports **teachers** with the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and to support families' diverse needs and interests.

Standard 7: The program establishes and maintains collaborative relationships that involve **families** in their children's educational growth. These relationships are sensitive to family composition, language, and culture and are based on mutual trust and respect.

Standard 8: The program establishes **community relationships** and uses these resources to support the achievement of program goals and connect families with supportive resources for healthy child development and learning.

Standard 9: The program has a safe and healthful environment that provides appropriate and well-maintained indoor and outdoor **physical environments**. The environment includes facilities, equipment, and materials to facilitate child and staff learning and development.

Standard 10: The program implements established policies and procedures with effective **leadership and management**, essential to building and maintaining a high-quality program so all children, families, and staff have quality experiences.

For more about the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and a more detailed description of the standards please visit www.naeyc.org. Parents can also search for accredited programs and utilize NAEYC parent resources.