

The Quality Enhancement Initiative



January 2013

Together we can!

Recently my daughter began watching the Little House On the Prairie TV series that I adored as a little girl. She quickly noted that the people of Walnut Grove, all from different places, with differing religions, values, and abilities worked together. They partnered for the good of the community. The children in this fictitious world were accountable to not just their families, but to the community as a whole. It was necessary for their survival.

We do not live in a community like Walnut Grove anymore. Our society has changed, but the diversity is still there, and the need to support each other still exists... especially for children and their families.

The research is clear, the more we are able to engage families and facilitate partnerships within the community the better our children's lives are. The importance of this is especially true in Early Childhood Education. Because of this NAEYC has put together the 6 Principles of family engagement to help insure that best practice is carried out with our families. Involving Families through online communications is one advancement that many programs are using as well as making sure that we develop reciprocal relationships and hold regular Parent-teacher Conferences. NAEYC's position statement on working with families, especially with linguistic differences, diverse backgrounds, or families of children with special needs serves to reinforce the importance of this collaborative process.

We may not be living in the simpler times of Walnut Grove, but our children still deserve to know that they are supported by all of those around them and our families need to know where to turn when they need help.



Family Engagement check-list

What Best Practice has to say...

- Intentional reciprocal relationships with families are fostered from first contact with respect to cultural diversity and linguistic differences

(NAEYC 7.A.06, NAFCC 1.11, 1.17)

- If concern for a child's development arise, staff respectfully share this information with the family any provides suggested next steps and resources. (NAEYC 7.B.04, 8.A.01 8.A.05, NAFCC 1.16, 5.12)
- Families are encouraged to participate in the planning for their child and are addressed in a language that they understand (NAEYC 7.C.04, NAFCC 1.19, 1.13)
- The program offers information about community events and has a presence within the community. (NAEYC 8.B.03, 8.C.04 NAFCC 1.28, 5.8)

*** NAFCC recently revised it's standards. Some of the criteria noted above has been changed or added to the [NAFCC Quality Standards](#)

QEI Program Directors Meeting- January 15th, 2013

This month's topic is Family and Community Relationships-NAEYC Standards 7 & 8. Emisha Young, OU Tulsa, will be presenting on behalf of the OU ECEI Research Partnership Program (RPP) and sharing how you and your program can become involved. Bring a lunch if you would like. Everyone is welcome!

January 15th, 12-2pm

Spirit Bank (18th and Baltimore Branch-Conference Room)
1800 South Baltimore Avenue, Tulsa, 74119

For more information go to [QEI Program Directors Meetings](#)

TACSI (Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative) provides leadership to create and sustain community schools that support academic success and strengthen children, families, and communities. Go to TACSI.org to learn more.



Family Game Night with the Principal.

Just one of the many ways **TACSI** is building

successful students...healthy families...engaged communities

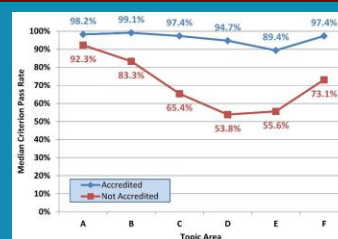


Did you know?

NAEYC is now offering study guides for many of the articles found in Young Children and Teaching Young Children. Look for **NEXT-YC** and **NEXT- TYC** at NAEYC.org, a NAEYC professional development resource.

Find out more!

NAEYC has issued its latest [Trend Briefs](#) evaluating Accreditation Standards across programs. The research shows what criteria were most predictive of success in achieving and maintaining accreditation. Log in to [Torch](#) for more information.



Tulsa's Quality Enhancement Initiative (QEI) provides programs and intensive, ongoing support that includes training, technical assistance, and funds/materials to improve and maintain the quality of care and education that young children and families receive. Programs that access this support include traditional child care programs, family child care homes, faith based, non-profit and for profit, as well as Early Head Start/Head Start and public pre-k classrooms. The QEI accomplishes this using NAEYC's Standards and Criteria of best practice for early childhood programs and NAFCC's Standards of best practice for family child care homes. Program quality improvement is an essential element for elevating young children's well being and early learning opportunities. *Tulsa's QEI is the only NAEYC recognized Accreditation Facilitation Project in the state of Oklahoma.* We recognize that quality is a process that is achieved over time and with regular maintenance.

For more information about the Quality Enhancement Initiative or to speak to an Accreditation Specialist please [Contact Us](#) or join us at our [Program Directors meetings](#).

Sincerely,

The Quality Enhancement Initiative Team
Child Care Resource Center