



You have your
self-study kit.

NOW WHAT???

Getting Started in Self-Study

A t - a - G l a n c e

During self-study, you evaluate yourself and your program using the Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation and make quality improvements.



Self-study is a two-part process – mastering the standards and collecting information to document that you are meeting eligibility requirements.

Anatomy of Self-Study

First Steps

- Assemble Provider Guide (P.G.)
- Review P.G. Table of Contents
- Read P.G. Chapters 1-4
- Using the NAFCC Benchmarks to Quality, complete a self-assessment one level at a time. -P.G. Chapter 5

Next Steps

- Become familiar with and use the standards everyday in your program -P.G. Chapter 5
- Plan to meet training requirements. -P.G. Chapter 5
- Start gathering eligibility documentation. -P.G. Chapter 6
- Decide when you will apply for accreditation. -P.G. Chapter 9

The Kit

The self-study kit is designed to provide the tools you will need to be successful in self-study and in maintaining NAFCC Accreditation.

- Provider Guide to Achieving NAFCC Accreditation (P.G.)
- Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation
- NAFCC Benchmarks to Quality
- Parent Guide to NAFCC Accreditation
- NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct

The Provider Guide

Covers each step of the process. Read chapters 1-4 to get an overview of accreditation. You will refer to chapters 5-8 often as you work through self-study. This is also a great place to store the documents you will submit with your accreditation application and the documents you will show your observer during your observation visit.

Parent Guide

The *Parent Guide* clearly outlines the accreditation process and offers parents specific information about their role in the process. Chapter 8 in the P.G. shares the importance of involving parents in your accreditation journey with tips for how to include them.

Quality Standards

The Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation are the foundation of exemplary family child care. They provide credibility and an assurance to parents and your community that an accredited program is based on sound principles of child growth and development. Use the *Quality Standards* book to become familiar with the standards and refer to them often.

Benchmarks to Quality

This publication organizes the Quality Standards into four levels, allowing you to break self-study into manageable pieces. You will use this book to evaluate your program and develop a plan to be ready for your observation and become accredited. Chapter 5 in the P.G. explains how to use the *Benchmarks*.

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Preparing for the financial aspects of becoming accredited is also important. When you are ready to apply, the application fee is due (\$500 for members and \$700 for non-members). NAFCC offers a layaway plan and many states offer assistance for accreditation fees. Contact your local resource and referral office or NAFCC for more information.

Eligibility Documentation-In addition to mastering the quality standards, you will take steps to meet accreditation eligibility requirements and collect the application documentation during self-study. Some documentation may take awhile to acquire, so plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time. Refer to Chapter 6 in the P.G for more information.

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