

Local News

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Immanuel Christian Child Development Center earns national accreditation

Immanuel Christian Child Development Center earned a national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The accreditation means the ICCDC program is among the top child-care and education programs in the nation.

The NAEYC accreditation system was created in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs.

To earn accreditation, a program must meet 10 NAEYC early childhood program standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period. In the 25 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education.

"The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for child care centers and other early

childhood programs," said Jerlean E. Daniel, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. "Having earned NAEYC accreditation is a sign that Immanuel Christian child-development program is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education."

"We thank God for giving us the opportunity to bring our program to the top quality national program. 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. ICCDC Director Dr. Hadassah Ratna Rajaratnam said, "NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible."

Immanuel Child Development Center is a licensed Christian-based early childhood care and education program. The center offers care and education

services to children of Ridgecrest from 2 months to 10 years of age. We believe each child is an irreversible creation and blessing from God and we strive to love and nurture each child through His eyes. Our mission is in pursuit of excellence in care, development and education of young children in our community. Immanuel Christian Child development Center in partnership with families will endeavor to promote and encourage godliness and wisdom, while meeting physical, socio-emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the children in our care. To earn accreditation, ICCDC went through an extensive self-study process that started in June 2010, which included measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC program standards and

more than 400 related accreditation criteria.

CDC staff and the director worked tirelessly to bring up the CDC program standards to meet the required NAEYC criteria that includes classroom environment and set up, outdoor environment, opportunities and resources for learning, care and teaching practices, curriculum and program planning. Each classroom teacher developed a 200-page classroom portfolio, and the program director developed a 400-page program portfolio based on the required criteria for all the 10 standards.

The portfolios are a requirement for accreditation to show the evidence that we meet each and every required criterion for a quality program. The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by

NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the 10 program standards. The assessor, Dr. Karen Hampton, NAEYC Academy, Washington DC, visited the program during the first week of June and thoroughly observed and evaluated our program for two days and submitted her input on our program to NAEYC Academy, Washington, D.C. for review and decision making process for Immanuel CDC National accreditation. This process took two months, and during the month of August we received the notice of Immanuel CDC becoming a nationally accredited program. The center met the 10 NAEYC standards and received the commendations and the highest percentage of met criteria for relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessment,

health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment and leadership and management

Rajaratnam and the staff and families of Immanuel Christian Child Development Center thank Immanuel Baptist Church for providing them this excellent opportunity to establish a Christian faith-based child development-program that is now nationally recognized as a top quality program to care and educate young children of Ridgecrest with quality care and Christ's love and to support the young families in laying a strong foundation for growth and overall development of their young children.

For more information about the program, call 760-4464505 and visit us online at immanuelcdc.org.



NAEYC Assessor Dr. Karen Hampton
ICCDC Director Hadassah Ratna Raj

Stalwarts for National Accreditation for ICCDC
Back Row - Dr. Ratna, Cheri, Brenda, Mary, Silvia, Lisa
Front Row— Silvia M, Arlene, Veronica, Ov, Francia