



Pathways, a rigorous accreditation system for child care centers, was developed by Children's Institute and experts in the field of early care and education. Designed to meet the needs of a child care center's children, their families, leadership and staff, *Pathways* provides the direction for continuous improvement through internationally-used assessment tools, standards common to quality in child care, with easy accessibility and prompt response time.

Pathways accreditation is:

- Strength and standards based
- Supported through technical assistance
- Open and transparent
- Clear, objective, reliable and valid
- Fair, with due process
- User-friendly, with a web-based application
- Respectful of the time constraints of leadership and staff

Resources for the development of Pathways include:

- Community input from experts in the field of early care and education
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Caring for our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for out-of-home child care (2nd ed.)
- Assessments such as the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R), Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R), Program Administration Scale (PAS)
- Early Education Standards from the following states: Arizona, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania
- Federal legislation: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act '97 Part C – Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
- Head Start Regulations
- National Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Performance Criteria
- NYS Day Care Center Regulations
- NYS Experimental Prekindergarten Program Standards
- NYS Prekindergarten Learning Standards
- NYS Preschool Special Education Learning Outcomes and Indicators for Kindergarten Participation
- NYS Universal Prekindergarten Standards

For more information, please call Kim Avery, Early Care and Education Specialist, at (585) 295-1000 x294 or visit www.childrensstitute.net