

A symbol of quality

In order to provide quality child care programs, leaders of centers that serve young children often work long hours to deliver what is best for children and their families. *Pathways: National Early Education and Care Accreditation* can help leaders of child care centers and their staff to gain the recognition they deserve.

A strength-based system developed after an extensive review of child care standards from across the nation, Pathways has a unique online self-inventory to help assess a center's readiness before beginning the rigorous accreditation processes. It also uses several assessment tools, parent surveys, interviews with staff and administrators, and site visits.

"I like the choice of ECERS-R and ITES-R for the basis of classroom observations. It's important to use a normed assessment instrument for that purpose."

—Karen Costello, Owner
Faith Child Care & Nursery School, Rochester, NY

children's
institute

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Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester



Make your center parents' first choice for child care



A rewarding source of pride and confidence



"Attaining Pathways accreditation is truly an accomplishment that is to be shared by the entire center. The pride that goes along with accomplishing such a challenging goal together has been a great team building activity. Parents, teachers, directors, and staff all get to share in the joy of saying that their center is accredited, and that makes it worth all of the hard work and dedication that it takes to get there!"

*-Gina Lang, Director of Pride and Joy and Joyful Beginnings Child Care Centers
Pathways accredited since 2016*



Leaders of child care centers recognize that attaining national accreditation is a notable achievement: Only 10% of child care centers in the nation are accredited. Whether leaders wish to pursue first-time accreditation or consider an alternative accreditation system, *Pathways: National Early Education and Care Accreditation* makes it possible for centers to implement the highest standards and reap the valuable rewards that accredited centers enjoy:

- Leaders have confidence that their centers are offering the highest quality care
- Staff members exhibit a greater sense of pride in their workplace
- Parents have more confidence in their child's caregivers
- Centers experience the potential for more business, which can increase their financial strength
- In some areas, accredited child care centers receive higher reimbursement rates

Enjoy a positive accreditation experience

Pathways: National Early Education and Care Accreditation can help centers achieve the highest standards in the field through a clear process that requires minimal paperwork. Designed with you in mind, Pathways features allow centers to:

- Attain standards for staff and leadership qualifications: Pathways recognizes experience and professional development as well as academic credentials
- Experience exceptional customer service: Pathways is collaborative, providing support and opportunity for positive corrective action
- Save time: Pathways is sensitive to your schedule and workload. Pathways uses COMET®, our web-based data management and collection system, to help you organize your accreditation process, conveniently and efficiently.
- Simplify procedures: The easy-to-follow manual guides you each step of the way



First steps of Pathways Accreditation

To learn more about Pathways Accreditation, attend one of our informational meetings or visit our website at www.childrensinstitute.net/pathways.

The website provides dates and times of the informational meetings as well as answers to many questions. You will also find an order form for the Pathways application kit which contains:



- Guide to application process
- Paper copy of quality indicators
- List of administrative records required
- Sample of parent information letter
- Samples of parent and staff surveys
- Instruments that will be used for on-site review
- Scoring criteria
- Your confidential identification number and password

For further information, contact:

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