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# Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School Earns Accreditation from NAEYC

## Quick Facts

- The Macfeat Laboratory School serves children ages three to five and is operated by the Richard W. Riley College of Education as a training/demonstration/research facility.
- To earn NAEYC accreditation, Macfeat went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria.



ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School** at Winthrop University has earned accreditation from the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“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,” said **Chrissie**

**Robbins**, director of Macfeat. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our high-quality program have teachers who create engaging classrooms, enhance relationships with their parents and families, and develop rich experiences for their students.”

The **Macfeat Laboratory School** serves children ages three to five and is operated by the **Richard W. Riley College of Education** as a training/demonstration/research facility. Staffed by professional educators with advanced degrees, graduate and undergraduate students, Macfeat operates with a child-centered environment, designed with learning centers that foster independence, creativity, collaboration and discovery.

The teachers and staff at the lab school strive to meet the physical, cognitive and social/emotional needs of each child, while exploring ways to best meet the educational challenges facing parents and teachers of young children.

To earn **NAEYC accreditation**, Macfeat went through an **extensive self-study process**, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria.

Macfeat first earned accreditation in 1994. On this latest evaluation, the laboratory school located in the Withers/W.T.S. Building achieved **100 percent** completion on **eight of its 10 criteria**.

In the 25 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Nearly 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately **eight percent** of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

“It’s a lengthy and rigorous process to achieve NAEYC accreditation, and Macfeat should be commended for seeking high standards,” said **Rhian Evans Allvin**, executive director of NAEYC. “Caring for children is not ‘rocket science’ – it’s brain science. Studies prove that the brain connections made in the first few years of life set a child’s path for success in school and in life. That’s why quality educators are so crucial.”

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