

Growing Kids Learning Centers - South Bend Receives Accreditation

Growing Kids Learning Center, a preschool and child care in South Bend, has been awarded the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) for the second year.

To achieve accreditation for a second year, Growing Kids had to maintain its accredited status by continuing to follow the rigorous guidelines set by the NECPA. Those include a process of self-study (including parent and staff surveys), a verification visit by early childhood education/child care professionals, and a final review by the NECPA Board of Commissioners. Standards of quality include administration, staff development and the working environment, the developmental program, outdoor and indoor environments, health and safety, and parent and community relations.

What this means for the children who attend Growing Kids Learning Center is improved quality, both in the developmental program for young children and in the health and safety of the environment.

- * Accreditation promotes the best practices in early childhood education.
- * Accreditation promotes the best practices in health and safety.
- * Accreditation standards far exceed Indiana highest requirements.

* Accreditation provides an additional objective inspection of all aspects of Growing Kids for improved accountability.

As a NECPA-accredited program, Growing Kids joins a select group of early childhood education centers nationwide, distinguished by quality, commitment to young children, and dedication to excellence.

Growing Kids Learning Centers Awarded Highest Rating in Paths

Growing Kids Learning Center, a preschool and child care in Elkhart and South Bend, has been awarded the highest rating of a Level 4 in the Paths to QUALITY Program, Indiana's voluntary quality rating and improvement system. One of the requirements for Level 4 is national accreditation. Growing Kids is accredited by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

As a Level 4 Provider, Growing Kids Learning Center is committed to improving program quality by:

- * Promoting positive relationships for all children and adults.
- * Using a planned curriculum to help every child develop his or her language, physical, social/emotional and thinking skills.
- * Using materials and teaching that consider each child's developmental needs, as well as his or her cultural background.
- * Providing ongoing assessment of each child's learning and development and communicating his or her progress to the parents/guardians.
- * Promoting children's health and protecting each child from injury and illness.

Growing Kids' decision to participate in this program is great news for enrolled children because research shows that high quality, early learning experiences prepare children for success in school, work and life. By participating in Paths to QUALITY, Growing Kids is making a commitment to provide every child with quality care and to continually work to improve program quality.



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