

## **TEAM Early Education Pre School Programs Earns National Accreditation**

Derby CT, July 7, 2009 --- The TEAM Early Education Center 80 Howard Avenue, Ansonia, recently earned re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Seymour School Readiness Program, located in Anna LoPresti School, Seymour operated by TEAM, Inc., earned its first national accreditation. NAEYC is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

NAEYC accreditation is designed to bring early childhood programs, families, communities and other groups together in an effort to improve the quality of children's learning experiences in early education settings.

"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 David Morgan, TEAM Vice President of Early Education. "NAEYC accreditation assures families in our community that children enrolled in our program receive exceptional care and superior early learning experiences".

The National Association for the Education of Young Children – the world's largest organization of early childhood educators – established its accreditation system in 1985 to raise the quality of early childhood education and help families and others identify high-quality child care centers, preschools, kindergartens and other early childhood programs. NAEYC-accredited programs are committed to providing high-quality educational services to young children and their families. While the accreditation process examines all aspects of a program – including health and safety, teacher qualifications, and administration – the focus is on the interactions between teachers and children, and the quality of the child's experience. As of September 2006, new and more rigorous standards were put into place that reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development.

To earn NAEYC's accreditation using the more rigorous standards, TEAM's Early Education Center and Seymour School Readiness went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The programs received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards.

"The new NAEYC accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," said NAEYC Executive Director Mark Ginsberg. "The TEAM Early Education Center and Seymour School Readiness NAEYC accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education and to help give all children a better start."

The Early Education Center and the Seymour School Readiness Classroom will also be subject to unannounced visits during the five-year accreditation period.

To learn more about TEAM's Early Education Center and/or Seymour School Readiness contact David Morgan, Vice President of Early Education at (203) 734-8609 ext. 32.

