

## **SOMERS COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

### **Program Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process**

**Somers, May 2008** – **Somers Cooperative Preschool** located in Somers, CT is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) under the new accreditation process.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, Somers Cooperative Preschool went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria.

In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. “The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “Somers Cooperative Preschool’s 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 NAEYC Accreditation system was created in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. The Somers Cooperative Preschool has been accredited by NAEYC since 1996.

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