



The Bloomingdale Family Program serves preschool children in upper Manhattan, with priority given to children and families in poverty and children with special needs. Our mission is to provide an educational foundation that will allow our children to succeed in school and in all the areas of their lives after they leave us — healthy in body, in mind and in their feelings. This includes involving parents in the educational process and strengthening them as advocates for their children, as policy makers, as Bloomingdale staff, and as explorers and achievers of their own dreams and aspirations — moving toward independence and self-sufficiency.

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Bloomingdale's 107th Street Site Wins NAEYC Accreditation

Congratulations from Quality New York

by Sara Seiden, M.A.; Quality New York Advisor



The 107th Street team. From left to right: Dorothy Volonino (4s Class), Brenda Soriano (4s), Josh Abrahams (4s), Yandra Mondran (4s), Margarita Blanco (3s), QNY consultant Sara Seiden, Education Director Marilyn Barnwell, and Narcissa Said (3s).

Congratulations to everyone at the Bloomingdale Family Program for achieving accreditation! Working with Quality New York to facilitate the process, I joined you on the road to accreditation. It was a long, sometimes difficult yet ultimately rewarding journey that involved the hard work and dedication of the entire Bloomingdale team.

NAEYC (the National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation tells parents that they can have confidence that Bloomingdale provides high quality programs for the children in their community. The program had to meet ten standards with 144 criteria that NAEYC believes guarantees that children will learn and grow in a secure, safe and healthy environment.

Bloomingdale had to show that they met these criteria not just on the day of the assessors' visit but all the time. This meant that Education Director Marilyn Barnwell along with Executive Director José Velilla had to prepare a program portfolio demonstrating that Bloomingdale is well run,

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that parents' needs are met, that the school is involved in the community, and that there is an ongoing evaluation process in place to assure that high quality is maintained.

Teachers had to demonstrate that they had a program that responded to the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of the children. Each classroom put together extensive portfolios that documented how they promote the children's social and emotional development; how their curriculum promotes learning in language and literacy, math, science, social studies, music, art, and physical development; how they stimulate children's thinking and reasoning; and how they do ongoing observations and assessments and communicate with parents about their children's growth and development.

The school passed with high marks and everyone in the Bloomingdale family should feel proud of their success. I have loved working with everyone and hope to be able to help get the other two sites accredited!

Sara Seiden came to Bloomingdale through Quality New York (QNY), a collaboration between Bank Street College of Education, Child Care Inc., and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, which assists New York City early childhood programs reach the high-quality national standards established by NAEYC. Visiting us once a month, Sara served as our advisor and invaluable resource throughout the 3-year self-study and accreditation process. We are grateful for her constructive support and for all we learned from her.

The self-assessment process for the 109th Street and Columbus Avenue sites begins in September 2009.



For more than 80 years, NAEYC (the National Association for the Education of Young Children) has worked to raise the quality of programs for all children from birth through age eight. Since 1985, NAEYC's national, voluntary accreditation system has set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and helped families identify high-quality programs that provide a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the development of young children.

NAEYC-accredited programs show their quality by meeting the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards, which are based on the latest research on the education and development of young children.

All NAEYC-accredited programs must:

- Promote positive relationships for all children and adults.
- Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development—cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
- Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches.
- Provide ongoing assessments of child progress.
- Promote the nutrition and health of children and staff.
- Employ and support qualified teaching staff.
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with families.
- Establish and maintain relationships with and use resources of the community.
- Provide a safe and healthy physical environment.
- Implement strong program management policies that result in high-quality service.