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**CHILDREN'S VILLAGE ATTAINS FOURTH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
CONTINUING TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION**

Children's Village is one of first early childhood centers in Philadelphia to attain such high standards of program excellence through revamped rigorous NAEYC accreditation process

(Philadelphia, PA – January 18, 2008) - Children's Village Child Care Center was recently granted reaccreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the national accreditation agency for early childhood programs, receiving 95% to 100% or better on program standards, making it one of the first times in Philadelphia that a child care center has attained such high levels of excellence. According to Mary Graham, Executive Director, "Children's Village Child Care Center continues to be a leader in offering an affordable, educational, multicultural program of child care, early intervention and parent support services to families of many different backgrounds. Children's Village's commitment to diversity extends to low and moderate income families, as well, including those eligible for subsidized day care, Head Start and the new Pennsylvania preschool funding called Pre-K Counts." Continuously accredited since 1996, Children's Village demonstrates consistently high quality performance in all areas of the NAEYC accreditation criteria. "We are very proud of our fourth NAEYC accreditation and pleased that our efforts in providing superior quality care and services have allowed us to attain the highest standards which helps ensure Children's Village's role as a vital leader in the early childhood education field." says Mary Graham.

The newly revamped NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous and voluntary four step process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence.

Recently, NAEYC dedicated itself to a comprehensive review of its standards and in 2005 implemented revised best practices which raised the bar of excellence and makes the challenge of meeting these ten program standards and 400 accreditation criteria even more difficult. Programs seeking accreditation must undergo an intensive self-study prior to submitting an application and determine a time-frame to submit a formal self-assessment report; meet fundamental licensing, staffing, health and safety requirements within their candidacy and submit to observation of the program by NAEYC assessors to determine if the program meets all NAEYC standards. Information is collected from parents, teachers, administrators, and classroom observations. While NAEYC accreditation is dependent on meeting 80% of the criteria of program standards, Children's Village received nearly perfect scores. When awarded, accreditation is valid for five years.

According to Mary Graham, "the heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience". The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including positive relationships and child progress, staff qualifications, curriculum, and the provision of a safe and healthy physical environment. Much emphasis is on the children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow to learn intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. Ms. Graham says that "research supports the value of accreditation for children and is a win-win for children and parents alike. Children's language skills especially benefit from the better quality found in NAEYC accredited programs. These are critical areas for children's success in school as well as in life. Parents also know that accreditation means the best possible care when their children are not with them."

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The mission of Children's Village is to provide high quality early childhood education to young children and educational enrichment to school-age children in a safe, nurturing setting while their parents work; to partner with families of diverse backgrounds to prepare their children for productive futures while supporting and strengthening families in this pursuit, and to strive to make high quality child care accessible to families at all economic levels. Children's Village serves families of diverse backgrounds in an urban setting, creating an inclusive, cooperative community for children and their parents in today's global economy. Children's Village embraces family diversity by actively welcoming those of many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including interracial families; families who speak English as well as those who speak languages other than English; families of various compositions represented in today's society, including families with lesbian, gay and transgendered parents; recombined families and single parent, two parent, foster, adoptive, and grandparent-headed families; and families of all economic levels, including parents in training and on public assistance, working parents eligible for various child care subsidies, as well as those who pay the full private fee.

Children's Village Child Care Center is located at 125 North 8th Street in Center City Philadelphia and serves over 300 children including children ages 13 months through 4 years of age and children ages 5 through 8 in our School Age Program for out of school time during the school year and summer. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and is closed only on major holidays.

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