



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Childcare at the Westport Weston Family Y Achieves National Accreditation

Westport CT, September 13, 2005 – The Westport Weston Family Y Childcare continues to put its money where its mouth is, meeting the mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has recognized the program for meeting the established professional standards for early childhood education programs.

David Cohen, Senior Director of Childcare Services at the Y, and President of the Mid-Fairfield affiliate of the NAEYC, takes pride in the professional staff of the program. “The teachers are the most important facet of the program, as they are the ones who support the children and families every day. We are thrilled to have swimming, gyms and the beauty of Westport, but the teacher-child relationship will always be paramount.” The Westport Weston Family Y Childcare maintains excellent ratios of teachers to children and requires every teacher to hold a college degree, which is an expensive proposition. “This is about quality,” notes Associate Executive Director James Hardin, “We don’t provide Childcare for profit. We provide it for our mission.”

To help all families have access to these premier services, the United Way of Westport-Weston provides generous funding for financial assistance. “The small world in our Childcare helps children to grow up valuing diversity, seeing friends and teachers with different cultures, countries and languages. Learning how to play and communicate with others will always be more valuable than completing a work sheet,” says Cohen.

The Childcare provides full-time and part-time care and education for children aged six weeks to six years, plus before and after school programming at the public schools. The center is open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday and includes a full program in the summer. For more information, contact Tasha Dennison at 226-8981 x113.



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Westport Weston Family Y

The Westport Weston Family Y is an affiliate of the YMCA of the USA and a partner agency of the United Way of Westport and Weston. Our mission is to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. The Westport Weston Family Y is governed by two boards comprised of 40 community volunteers. Visit www.westporty.org for additional information about the organization and programs.

National Association for the Education of Young Children

The NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation administers a national, voluntary accreditation system to help raise the quality of all types of preschools, kindergartens, and child care centers. Since the system began in 1985, NAEYC accreditation has provided a powerful tool through which early childhood professionals, families, and others concerned about the quality of early childhood education can evaluate programs, compare them with professional standards, strengthen the program and commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement.