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Press Release Information

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ABC ACADEMY EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION

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

Jackson, MI, Sept. 8, 2008—ABC Academy located in Jackson is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) - the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"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 Mariann Gladstone, Director of ABC Academy on Emmons Rd. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." ABC Academy has been serving the Jackson community since 1984. Both the Emmons Rd. and Laurence St. locations earned accreditation from NAEYC.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, ABC Academy, Emmons Rd., 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. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 11,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC—approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. "The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," says Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. "ABC Academy'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 has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. As of September 2006, the

Association's revised program standards and criteria have introduced a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.