

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information contact:**

**Lori Gleaton**

**843-571-1105 ext. 19**

**[lori.gleaton@addlestone.org](mailto:lori.gleaton@addlestone.org)**

**[www.addlestone.org](http://www.addlestone.org)**



## **ADDLESTONE HEBREW ACADEMY EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

Program among the Top in the Nation by Earning NAEYC Accreditation

**Charleston, SC, August 20, 2009** – **Addlestone Hebrew Academy** located in West Ashley has earned 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 Chantal Lawrence, Director of Early Childhood Education at Addlestone. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

Addlestone Hebrew Academy is Charleston’s community Jewish day school. It serves children 18 months through 8th grade. Addlestone’s mission is to provide an exceptional education in secular and Judaic studies. Addlestone students achieve standards of academic excellence in a dynamic environment that embodies the richness of Jewish life.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Addlestone went through an extensive Self-Study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after a site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 23 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Almost 8,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The 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. “Addlestone’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. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today 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.

Addlestone's Elementary and Middle School grades are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Like NAEYC, SACS has rigorous standards that its member schools must abide by. Both organizations require yearly maintenance and reaccreditation every five years.

The NAEYC Accreditation system was created to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. To earn NAEYC Accreditation, a program must meet each of the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

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