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For immediate release:

## Northfield Nursery School Earns National Accreditation

Northfield Nursery School is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation using the newly revised standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, Northfield Nursery School 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 nursery school received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by a NAEYC Regional Assessor to ensure that the program met each of the ten NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation period, which lasts for five years.

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In those 20 years, Accreditation has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Approximately 8% of all preschools and other early childhood programs are currently accredited by NAEYC. 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. "The new 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. "Northfield Nursery School'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."

Northfield Nursery School (NNS) is a private, non-profit preschool staffed by a team of professional early childhood educators and overseen by a parent Board of Directors. It serves 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children in several part-day classes. To contact Northfield Nursery School, please call 645-4607 or go to its website at [northfieldnurseryschool.com](http://northfieldnurseryschool.com).