

United Methodist Association of Preschools Definitions

Accreditation – The program meets the UMAP Standards and is issued a UMAP Certificate, valid for 3 years.

Defer – Accreditation will be **deferred** for corrective action whenever:

- Any one class section falls lower than 75% of the possible score on the UMAP Standards for that particular age class.
- The total rating of all the classes or administrative total rating score falls below 85% of the possible total score for EITHER section.

A Program is **deferred** when the Program does not demonstrate sufficient compliance with the standards. The Commissioners will offer suggestions for compliance to be completed for presentation at the next Board Meeting. Final decision will be voted on by the UMAP Board of Directors.

Deny - The Program will be **denied accreditation** whenever

- both the “Total Administrative Rating Score” AND the “Total Rating Score of all classes” falls below the 85% level for both.

The Program did not demonstrate sufficient compliance with the standards or the ratings did not meet UMAP guidelines. Final decision will be voted on by the UMAP Board of Directors. Programs that are denied will be offered suggestions to improve scores. The accreditation evaluation process will need to be re-submitted and the program re-visited.

Validator – UMAP Accreditation Validators are volunteers, who have completed and submitted a Validator’s Application. Validators may receive a honorarium and mileage for their service. Validators are trained by the UMAP Accreditation Committee and must attend renewal trainings every two (2) years or if changes are made in the standards and procedures. Validator trainees must complete two (2) accreditation visits with a Mentor, and be verified by their mentor before being considered a full validator.

Accreditation Commissioners – UMAP Accreditation Commissioners are members of the UMAP Board of Directors and the Accreditation Committee. Commissioners are trained as validators and attend trainings as needed.

National UMAP Accreditation -- National UMAP Accreditation is equivalent to other National Accreditations, and includes a Christian Education component for the program and administration and, a Christian Education domain for each age level. Christian Education is integrated into the total program of the early childhood program and usually strongly supported by the sponsoring church congregation. UMAP National Accreditation is available to any Christian Early Childhood program supported by a sponsoring church congregation.