

Steps to Accreditation

Eligibility

1. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation must be licensed by the governing body of their state as well as any other local licensing agency.
2. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation must offer a Christian Curriculum and be supported by a Christian Church.
3. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation must be General Members in good standing with the United Methodist Association of Preschools.
4. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation may serve children birth through Pre-Kindergarten.
5. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation must be willing to prayerfully engage in the accreditation process.
6. Early Childhood Programs seeking accreditation must meet the United Methodist Association of Preschools Accreditation Standards.

Process

1. Early Childhood Programs that are General Members in good standing with the United Methodist Association of Preschools may apply for the UMAP Accreditation Standards and Procedures Packet at any time.
2. The Early Childhood Program prayerfully engages in a self-study of their program.
3. The Early Childhood Program makes any changes necessary to meet the UMAP Accreditation Standards and Procedures.
4. The Early Childhood Program completes all required paperwork and evaluations required by UMAP Accreditation Standards and Procedures.
5. The Early Childhood Program submits the Application for a UMAP Accreditation Validation Visit.
6. Upon receipt of the Application for a UMAP Accreditation Validation Visit, a validator(s) will be assigned. Arrangements for the visit will be coordinated between the Early Childhood Program administrator and the validator(s). At least 2/3s of the enrolled children must be present at the time of the validators' visit. The validation visit should be within 6 months of UMAP receiving your validation fee. A fee will be imposed if the validation visit is canceled by the director less than seven (7) days before scheduled date.
7. The mission of the validator(s) is to validate the self-study and evaluation reports completed by the Early Childhood Program. Validators do not decide on the outcome of Accreditation. It is vital that all components of the evaluation are complete BEFORE the validator(s) leaves the school.

Steps to Accreditation

8. The validator(s) submit all paperwork to the UMAP Accreditation Committee.
9. The UMAP Accreditation committee will assign three (3) UMAP Accreditation Commissioners to review the Application for Accreditation and accompanying paperwork.
10. The UMAP Accreditation Commissioners will make their recommendation for Accreditation based on the paperwork submitted and using the scoring format approved by the UMAP Board of Directors.
11. The UMAP Board of Directors will meet at least four (4) times yearly (January, April, August and November) to confirm UMAP Accreditation Certificates.
12. The UMAP Accreditation Committee will issue a UMAP Accreditation Certificate to Early Childhood Programs that successfully demonstrate they meet the UMAP Accreditation Standards.

Maintaining UMAP Accreditation

1. UMAP Accreditation must be renewed every three (3) years by completing the accreditation process and demonstrating that UMAP Standards are maintained.
2. When a UMAP Accredited Early Childhood Program has a change of Administrator/Director during the three (3) year accreditation period the Application for Change of Director and required paperwork must be submitted within three (3) months of the change.
3. UMAP Accredited Early Childhood Programs must maintain their UMAP Membership by submitting yearly dues and the Annual Update form.
4. When a UMAP Accredited Early Childhood Program has a change of status with their local or state governing body regarding their program, the UMAP Accreditation must be notified.
5. Failure to meet any of the four (4) requirements of "Maintaining UMAP Accreditation" will result in a review by the UMAP Accreditation Committee and UMAP Board of Directors and may result in the suspension or termination of UMAP Accreditation.