

**Contact:**  
**Patricia Dischler**  
NAFCC Board  
**Phone:**  
(608) 544-2733

**e-mail:**  
pdischler@wildblue.net  
**Web site:** www.nafcc.org

**WWW.NAFCC.ORG**

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# PRESS RELEASE

## Local Provider Receives National Accreditation

*National Association of Family Child Care Awards Accreditation To Shereen Smiley*

**(Salt Lake City, UT)** – Shereen Smiley, owner of Every Kid Counts Childcare & Learning Academy in Seattle, Washington, has recently been awarded a National Accreditation from the National Association of Family Child Care. Shereen said she originally pursued accreditation in order to achieve the highest rating in the state's proposed Quality Rating System, but after beginning the process she began to see it was an opportunity for learning and improving the quality of her program.

Shereen has been providing care in her home for eight years. Every Kid Counts Childcare & Learning Academy serves children birth through 12 years old, six days a week (closed Saturdays) and 24 hours a day. They offer three programs, Infant, Toddler and Preschool. They are staffed with teachers experienced in special needs and CDA certified. The curricula is enhanced through fieldtrips, etiquette training and self care.

The National Association of Family Child Care offers accreditation to providers across the country, aiding them in raising their standards of quality care. Shereen is thankful to organizations such as Child Care Resources and Washington Scholars who offer funding and scholarships for the education and training needed for accreditation. I could've never afforded to get through these processes without their support," said Shereen.

The city of Seattle benefits from accreditation as it is an indicator that quality care is available for parents in this community. Children benefit from accreditation as it indicates they will be cared for in a safe, nurturing environment and that their educational needs will be met. Shereen said, "The work manual was especially helpful in order to train my staff on what we needed to improve or change in order to be in compliance." Shereen also said the process provided the staff guidelines on working with local elementary schools in order to prepare the children for school and gave the parents more insight as to what happens in their child's day and what is being planned for the future.

In addition to NAFCC, Shereen is a member of NAEYC, WAEYC, PSAEYC, WSFCCA, Child Care Resources, Child Care Temps, SEIU 925, White Center Provider's Group Association, West Seattle Provider's Group and the Community Advisory Council for WCELL.

Shereen plans to continue her journey of professionalism and finish her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She is also learning sign language and opening up a Head Start in more than one location. "I could not shine or accomplish nearly what I have without the support of the absolutely loyal, loving and amazing employees that we have been so blessed with," said Shereen. "They are truly loved, appreciated and deeply valued."

For more information about NAFCC, receiving an accreditation or finding an accredited provider, visit [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org).

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### **About National Association of Family Child Care**

The National Association of Family Child Care is a nationwide non-profit organization that serves family child care providers by offering national accreditation, representation on the national level on child care issues and policy, a national annual conference, and support in the important work they do. For more information please visit: [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org).