

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY SCHOOL ACCREDITATION REPORT
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the Child Development Laboratory School in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

Executive Summary: The Child Development Lab School (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards and criteria defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The program was accredited for a period of five years. The College is required to submit an annual report. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact” as well as Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of Program.** The Child Development Lab School provides students with a hands-on experience working with and observing young children while serving as a model early childhood program for young children, including those with disabilities, and their families. The Laboratory School offers full-day year-round programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Selection at the Lab School is by lottery with priority given to children with special needs and siblings of currently enrolled children. The exemplary demonstration programs are provided to offer observation and participatory experiences for ISU students preparing to be early childhood teachers and administrators, and child and family specialists. It also serves as a research site for the college and university.
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the Child Development Laboratory School contained the responses to the standards required by the accrediting body – relationships; curriculum; teaching; assessment of child progress; health; teachers; families; community relationships; physical environment; and leadership and management.
- ◇ **On-Site Team Report.** In December 2007, the visiting team determined that the Child Development Laboratory School met the requirements for accredited status although a number of topic areas requiring improvement were identified.

- ◇ Topic Areas Requiring Improvement Identified by the Visiting Team. None of the topic areas requiring improvement represent non-compliance for a standard.
 - ⇒ “Promoting and protecting children’s health and controlling infectious disease.
 - ⇒ Preparation, knowledge, and skills of teaching staff.
 - ⇒ Teachers’ dispositions and professional commitment.
 - ⇒ Knowing and understanding the program’s families.
 - ⇒ Sharing information between staff and families.
 - ⇒ Outdoor environmental design.”

- ◇ Institution’s Implemented or Planned Changes. The Laboratory School intends to work on several topic areas that NAEYC indicated required improvement even though all criteria were met. These include work in improving the spread of infectious disease, teaching staff preparation, and personal commitment, knowledge of the program’s families, and sharing information with families.

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In March 2008, the National Association for the Education of Young Children awarded accreditation to the Child Development Laboratory School in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University for a period of five years. The Laboratory School is required to submit an annual report.