

NAC for Excellence, May 2009

Welcome to this edition of NAC for Excellence, a monthly accreditation e-newsletter for NACCP members. We hope you find the information provided in this newsletter helpful and informative. Enjoy!

Let's Talk About... *Working with a Consultant through NAC Accreditation*

By Janice Esau

It is common for programs to work with an early childhood consultant or receive training on the accreditation process while working through Self-Study. We are pleased that programs have this level of support from their local community partners. **Program administrators should be aware that only the NAC Accreditation Specialists can clarify standards and indicators with complete accuracy.** Private consultants and trainers *may* or *may not* be aware of the most recent additions or changes to the NAC standards.

Below are some tips for working with an accreditation consultant or trainer:

1. Find out when or if the consultant/trainer attended an Introduction to NAC Accreditation training or NAC Validator training sponsored by NACCP. If not, find out how they are familiar with the NAC standards. If the consultant/trainer has participated in one of our trainings, find out when the training took place. It's important to make sure your consultant/trainer is working from the most recent version of the NAC standards and procedures. Check [NAC Training Events](#) to learn about upcoming training in your area.
2. Ask your consultant/trainer to [register](#) their contact information with the NAC Accreditation office so we can keep them abreast of changes and updates to our standards and processes. Registering is easy! Consultants and trainers should send an email to laurie@naccp.org including their name, business name, email address, and phone number. In the subject line write: PLEASE ADD ME TO CONSULTANT REGISTRY. We will do the rest!
3. Read the Self-Study manual carefully. Do not rely on your consultant/trainer to explain each standard. You should talk with them about specific standards or indicators and how your program meets expectations. However, it is the program administrator's responsibility to contact the NAC Accreditation office for clarification on standards and procedures. Call (800) 537-1118 or email admin@naccp.org for assistance.

Standards indicated as 'Needs Improvement' during a validation visit will be marked accordingly if there is insufficient evidence on the day of the visit to support the standard. Program administrators are responsible for knowing which standards pertain to their program type and classroom configurations.

NAC does not endorse independent consultants or trainers. We do not distribute the names or contact information of consultants or trainers in your area. The Consultant Registry is strictly used as a tool for keeping consultants and trainers up to date on the latest NAC News, standards and procedures. We do not share our Consultant Registry with other organizations.

To sign up for the Consultant Registry, send an email message to laurie@naccp.org. Please include the subject line, PLEASE ADD ME TO CONSULTANT REGISTRY. Include your name, business name, email address, and telephone number in the body of your email message.