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## **MAGIC GARDEN EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION** **Program Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process**

**Lincoln, Massachusetts, December 31, 2007** – Magic Garden Children’s Center, located in Lincoln, Massachusetts, is one of the first early childhood programs to earn re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) since NAEYC redefined and increased its accreditation requirements. NAEYC is the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We’re proud to have again earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Gail Eddy, Director of Magic Garden. “Magic Garden has been an important part of the community for over 25 years, and we look forward to serving local families for many years to come. NAEYC Accreditation under the new standards lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

Magic Garden offers a year-round program for children 18 months to six years of age. Open from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., five days a week, Magic Garden touts an impressive roster of professionals, 93% of whom hold a Bachelor’s and/or Master’s degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. Using a trans-disciplinary approach to teaching that brings together a wide range of professionals and family members, Magic Garden offers an all-inclusive, integrated philosophy of early childhood education that supports children’s social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth at each stage of their development.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, Magic Garden went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The results were then reviewed and classroom observations conducted during an on-site visit from a NAEYC evaluator late last fall. Magic Garden received its re-accreditation with a score of **100%** in six of the ten program standards and **100+%** in the other four. A score of 100+% indicates that Magic Garden met requirements slated for future implementation.

“The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “**Magic Garden’s** NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.” Magic Garden has been accredited since 1997.