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## **Columbus Speech & Hearing Center Awarded NAEYC Accreditation and 3-Star Step Up to Quality Rating**

*Columbus, OH - April 2010* - Columbus Speech & Hearing Center is excited to share that we have maintained our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation, and we have received a 3-star Step Up To Quality rating! There are 340 total licensed programs serving toddlers and preschoolers in Franklin County and only eight have both NAEYC Accreditation and a 3-star SUTQ rating!

Since 1985, NAEYC has offered a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs. These programs provide high quality care and education to nearly one million young children in the United States, its territories, and programs affiliated with the United States Department of Defense. For more information on this accreditation:

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/>

Step Up To Quality is a voluntary Three-Star Quality Rating System that recognizes and promotes early care and education programs that meet quality benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing standards. The steps are based on national research identifying the key benchmarks that lead to improved outcomes for children. These benchmarks include low child to staff ratios, group size, accreditation, staff education, specialized training, improved workplace characteristics and early learning standards. For more information on this rating system: <http://www.occrra.org/stepup.htm>

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center is now enrolling students for the summer and fall sessions of our Language and Early Learning Program (LELP) preschool. For more information, visit [www.columbusspeech.org](http://www.columbusspeech.org) or call 614.263.5151.

**Columbus Speech & Hearing Center**, founded in 1923, is a non-profit United Way organization serving over 10,000 people annually. Services include hearing evaluations, hearing aids, speech therapy for children and adults, occupational therapy and treatment, and vocational services for the Hard-of-Hearing, Deaf and Deaf-Blind through the Comprehensive Program for the Deaf and Ohio Deaf-Blind Outreach Program. Generous charitable giving from the community help offset the cost of the Center's valued services for low-income families. For more information, [www.columbusspeech.org](http://www.columbusspeech.org).