



November 25, 2020

Dear Family Child Care Associates,

We want to thank you for your investment in family child care programs. We recognize your influential voice alongside the National Association for family child care, as together we define quality early care and education for home-based programs. Your commitment to the family child care workforce is noted, and we appreciate your patience with Family Child Care Providers navigating the challenges caused by the pandemic.

The National Association for Family Child Care throughout the pandemic has been reimagining the ideals around accreditation. We understand the importance of accredited programs to your constituents. We sincerely apologize for the delayed awarding of accreditation certificates to our members. We acknowledge the inconvenience caused to our members, potential members, and you.

As we move forward, we will continue to promote high-quality early childhood and school-age care experiences in home-based settings, through a research-based accreditation program. We have received emails and phone calls from providers, technical assistants, in addition to quality retaining and improvement systems, inquiring about the status of our accreditation program. I am writing to inform you of our reimagined practices and procedures in observation of COVID-19 safety regulations. While still practicing social distancing regulations, we are still here working for the provider. Here's how:

- We are structuring observations for a virtual format.
- We are personally responding to inquiries in the order received, and directing providers to technical assistants and peer support groups for mentorship.
- We are offering extension certificates for providers through April 30, 2021.

In light of circumstances beyond the Family Child Care Provider's control, please consider waiving penalties that would impact a provider's financial stability and program success. Our accreditation processes were done manually prior to COVID-19, as the pandemic continues to unfold, we will be continuing our manual processing. Our accreditation processes were done manually prior to the pandemic to ensure certifications were awarded with equity, with merit, and with specificity. We will continue to deliver services reflective of our adherence to quality programming for early care and education for home-based programs despite the disruption of synchronicity created by the pandemic.

Our national symbol of excellence in Family Child Care programming indicates the highest level of quality for consumers. We are a symbol families can trust! Thank you for your patience during these uncertain times for our nation. Please let us know how we can continue to be part of your organization's commitment to Family Child Care Providers, children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lanette Dumas  
Executive Director, National Association for Family Child Care