

# NAEYC Accreditation and Curriculum



## What are NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards?

NAEYC stands for the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*, which sets the most rigorous standards in early childhood education, health, and safety. **Daniel Island Academy** has achieved and maintained NAEYC accreditation since its opening in 2004. The standards and criteria are also the foundation of the NAEYC Accreditation system for early childhood programs. To earn accreditation, programs must meet all 10 standards.

### Ten Standards of NAEYC Accreditation

1. Promote positive **relationships** for all children and adults
2. A **curriculum** that fosters all areas of child development: **cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social**
3. Developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate **effective teaching**
4. **Ongoing assessments** of a child's learning and development
5. Promote the **nutrition and health** of children and protect children and staff from illness and injury
6. **Teaching staff** that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment required
7. Collaborative **relationships with each child's family**
8. **Relationships** with and use of resources in the **community** to achieve program goals
9. Safe and healthy **physical environment**
10. Strong personnel, fiscal, and program **management policies**

*"At Daniel Island Academy we understand that children learn in their own unique way. When you walk our halls you will see children thriving in a vibrant, loving environment, and know that this is no ordinary preschool."*

*Kerry Nowosielski*  
School Director

[www.NAEYC.ORG](http://www.NAEYC.ORG)

## Why is Curriculum Important to Overall School Quality?

The content and implementation of an early childhood curriculum set the tone for the entire school. Its use by knowledgeable and professional teachers is based on the following questions:

- What do children need to learn?
- How will children learn best?
- How do I help children build on what they know and what they can do?

Daniel Island Academy selected **The Creative Curriculum®**, a NAEYC approved curriculum of excellence, due to its **child-centered** approach to learning. It is also a **play-based** curriculum in which classroom environment and center activities are key components in the learning process.

Our curriculum includes a balanced schedule of planned activities and free choice; quiet time and physical play; individual attention and group activities. Most important, we ensure a high level of one-on-one interaction between teacher and child.

## How is My Child's Progress Followed?

Daniel Island Academy's leadership team is comprised of a **School Director, Curriculum Coordinator, and Reference Point Coordinator**. Their collaborative efforts ensure that each child's progress is observed, reported, and communicated to parents.

**Reference Point** was created by Daniel Island Academy to provide a **developmental** tracking system of screening and observation tools to monitor your child's **cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional** milestones.

A **confidential** portfolio is managed by an on-staff professional and includes

- Fall Readiness Checks and Review
- Fall Teaching Strategies Conference
- Spring Conference
- Open Family Conferences, if needed
- Individualized Service Plans & Specialized Intervention, if needed



**Daniel Island Academy**  
*Serving Children Ages 1-5 Years*  
300 Seven Farms Drive  
Daniel Island, SC 29492  
843.971.5961  
[www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com)

# Curriculum, Related Arts and Enrichment Programs

## MyTeachingStrategies.com

An extension of The Creative Curriculum® is MyTeachingStrategies.com, a web-based program that integrates ongoing assessment of children's development with reporting, program planning and parent communication tools, including observation notes, examples of children's work, photographs, lesson plans, progress reports, classroom newsletters and a teacher-to-parent email link.

### Related Arts

Daniel Island Academy's Early Literacy Initiative includes specially-designed Related Arts of literacy, Spanish, handwriting, behavior management and dynamic movement. These programs have been specially designed to integrate with The Creative Curriculum® and support the development and education of the "whole child".

**Conscious Discipline** is a school wide behavior management system that leads teachers and schools by promoting behavioral changes through relationships rather than the traditional roles of discipline. The success of this behavior management program is developing a sense of community with positive communication, respect, cooperation and safety.

**Music Literacy** is taught weekly in our Full-Day classrooms, including our youngest pre-toddler rooms. We work on fine and gross motor skills while enhancing our cognitive, physical and musical development. Monthly themes such as Farm Animals, Weather, Up Up in the Sky, and Get your Sillies Out allow for various activities each week through singing, dancing, listening, reading and jamming out with instruments.

**Spanish for Preschoolers** is an introductory course focused on exposing children to a new language. The course curriculum includes every day greetings, colors, numbers, songs, celebrations, and stories in Spanish. Intro to Spanish is included for Full-Day 2's (older), 3's and 4's students.

**Get Set For School™** is an award-winning program that uses lively music and playful activities to help young children build a solid foundation for school success. The readiness and writing curriculum is full of developmentally appropriate activities that teach foundational pre-writing skills, letter and number recognition and formation, fine and gross motor skills

(grip, draw, build), key social-emotional skills (sharing, taking turns, listening). The numbers and math curriculum will help young children to count, sequence and match objects, compare, build patterns, sort and understand spatial concepts and solve problems.

**Letterland™** is taught in the 4 year-old programs and is a unique, phonics-based approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling. The characters transform plain black letter shapes into child-friendly pictograms who all live in an imaginary place called Letterland. Simple stories about the characters help motivate the children to listen, think and learn.

**Physical Education** focuses on the development of motor skills or "movement skills". The school's play areas serve as the classroom, whether on the school's outdoor playground, courtyard, or in the multi-purpose room. An instructor works with teachers and children, providing developmentally appropriate programs that are fun and engaging for all age levels. Each area is stocked with the latest equipment designed to enhance the development of movement skills.

### Enrichment Programs

Supplemental Enrichment Programs are offered to encourage children to explore new interests and develop new skills. Your child's teacher and school staff are available to help plan an Enrichment Program schedule that will benefit your child's continued development and interests. Some of the programs offered include:

**Black Label** Jiu-Jitsu Star is a fun, happy and energetic Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class for "Fox Cubs" that develops physical and mental skills to help kids succeed in the classroom and at home. Kids learn balance, agility, listening, taking turns, manners, focus and anti-bullying with the basics of BJJ. Growing a better community with each class!

**Art Buzz Kids** will spark up your child's creativity and imagination and turn them into a Picasso! Summer camp is a great way to develop confidence and provide a creative outlet. Perfect for a child who has a passion for art! **\*SUMMER ONLY\***

**Dance Express** is exciting and "fun-filled". 45 minute combination classes consist of basic tap and ballet techniques. The jazz portion of the class allows students to explore free expression, by using upbeat, high energy music.

**Lil' Laxers Lacrosse** is the fastest growing sport in the US. Classes will introduce the basics of catching, passing and scooping as well as play mini controlled games. Students will learn the importance of team play and good sportsmanship.

**Lowcountry Gifted Minds** brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEAM) to children in a fun and challenging way. LGM inspires children to build on their curiosity by teaching engineering and scientific concepts.

**Pro Performance Athletics** is designed to increase listening comprehension, motor skill development, overall athleticism, sports IQ and team building skills while providing a positive environment geared toward fun and learning fundamentals of sports. Students will engage in dodgeball, football and baseball as they gain skills of speed and agility during game situations and teamwork.

**SC Music Station** provides an exciting and interactive atmosphere while learning a variety of different musical concepts. Dance, sing and move to the beat, while being exposed to a wide variety of instruments. **\*SUMMER ONLY\***

**Soccer Shots** introduces soccer to your child in a fun, safe and controlled environment. Each week offers 30 minute classes of basic soccer skills, fun games and healthy competition.

**Stretch-n-Grow** programs teach children the fundamentals of a healthy lifestyle, establishing a foundation of exercise and proper nutrition. Kids get moving through gymnastics and yoga.

**Wee Little Arts** is a visual arts curriculum for young children. Using art history and developmentally appropriate children's literature, students are exposed to a wide range of visual art concepts. Vocabulary, use of materials, discussion, imagination and creation are encouraged.