



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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CONTACT: LAURA PORTIER-LALUMIERE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley • 16582 Brookhurst Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714-309-4962 • laura@bgchv.com

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY'S LEARNING CENTER PRESCHOOL
EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION**

Program Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process

(Huntington Beach, CA, January 16, 2009) - Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley's Learning Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. Going beyond mere licensure, NAEYC accreditation is given only to early childhood education programs that meet rigorous standards in curriculum, teaching, facilities, staff, management, and much more. The Learning Center has open enrollment and slots are currently available. The Learning Center is located at 16081 Waikiki Lane in Huntington Beach. For enrollment information or rates, stop by, call 714-846-1303 or visit <http://www.bgchv.com/our-locations/learning-center-preschool/>.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Tanya Hoxsie, CEO. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." Learning Center Director Chelo Loshak describes the Center's programs: "Our mission is to inspire and enable the healthy development of all young children to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring members of the community. We strive to provide an age appropriate environment that will enhance the child's physical, emotional, social, and mental development. To achieve our mission, we have implemented a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for each child's needs and abilities. We believe in an atmosphere in which each child is respected and free to experiment and investigate, free to have individual ideas, and free to master those ideas in a planned environment. Children learn the pleasure of doing things for themselves and thus develop a positive self-concept. Our program sets limits to help children learn safety, value property and respect the rights of others. We do not attempt to bring about quick changes, rather, we believe that with parent cooperation, positive learning experiences will establish a foundation for each child's personal achievement."

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, the Learning Center 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 program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts five years.

In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 11,000 programs, serving one million young children are currently accredited by NAEYC. That figure represents approximately 8% of all preschools and other early childhood programs nationwide. In Huntington Beach, the Learning Center is one of only 3 early childhood programs to earn this prestigious mark of quality. "The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," said Mark Ginsberg, PhD, executive director of NAEYC. "The Learning Center'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."

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. As of September 2006, the Association's revised program standards and criteria have introduced a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest quality care and education possible.

The Learning Center is one of Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley's five sites in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley (BGCHV) was established in 1967 and is now the largest provider of youth-related programs and services in the Huntington Beach-Fountain Valley community, with more than 8,000 members in 2008. In May 2008, BGCHV was ranked among the top four Boys & Girls Clubs in the nation, receiving the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Merit Award for Overall Program Excellence. Club services include: before and after school care, bus transportation to and from local schools, licensed preschool and daycare, sports leagues, performing arts programs for beginner through advanced students, tutorial programs, computer labs and classes, afterschool Kindergarten programs and much more. Discounted services are available for low-income families. Through a partnership with Golden West College, the Club plans to build California's first Boys & Girls Club on a college campus and has raised \$2.2 million of the \$6.5 million needed to build the facility, which will include a school age youth center, preschool, and gymnasium. For more information about the Club or to support the campaign to build a new Club, please visit www.bgchv.com or call 714-531-2582.

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