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**The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center Earns
Continued Rigorous National NAEYC Accreditation**

*Among Top in Nation and Only One of Four Preschools in Sarasota/ Manatee to Earn
and Hold this National, Voluntary and Prestigious Endorsement*

Sarasota, April 8, 2013 – **The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center** has continued to earn the rigorous accreditation from the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We’re proud to once again earn the pinnacle mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said **Cheryl Evans, preschool director, Forty Carrots Family Center**. “We are truly dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, their children, and professionals in the field. The NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Forty Carrots Family Center went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten 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 for five years. Founded in 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center has earned and held this national, voluntary and prestigious endorsement for more than 13 years.

In the 25 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said **Jerlean E. Daniels, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC**. “The Preschool at Forty Carrots’ 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. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in early child care programs. The new standards today 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 NAEYC Accreditation system was created in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. To earn NAEYC Accreditation, a program must meet each of the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period. For more information about NAEYC Accreditation, visit www.naeyc.org/academy.

Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. For more information visit www.fortycarrots.org

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