



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR HOME-BASED
AND CENTER-BASED EDUCATORS

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards

BOARD-ADOPTED • AUGUST 26, 2026

“Excellence in early childhood education is not only about what we teach—it is also about the ethical foundation we build for children, families, educators, and one another.”

Together • Empower • Elevate

Our Shared Professional Commitment

The National Alliance for Home-Based and Center-Based Educators (the “Alliance”) is dedicated to fostering excellence, integrity, and professionalism across the early childhood education field. The Alliance adopts by reference the NAEYC Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators as its foundational ethical code. For family child care practice, the Alliance also recognizes the NAFCC Accreditation Quality Standards as an applicable national quality benchmark. The Alliance’s supplemental standards address its multi-setting membership, lab-school environments, workforce development, and organizational governance.

This code applies across family child care homes, center-based programs, lab-school environments, Alliance leadership, and workforce-development activities.

Contents

1. Ethical Responsibilities to Children
2. Ethical Responsibilities to Families
3. Professional Commitment and Integrity
4. Responsibilities to Colleagues and the Community
5. Safeguards for Home-Based, Center-Based, and Lab Programs
6. Legislative and Regulatory Compliance
7. Adoption and Acknowledgment

Standards relationship

The Alliance adopts the NAEYC Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators by reference as its ethical foundation and recognizes the NAFCC Accreditation Quality Standards as an applicable benchmark for family child care. The Alliance standards in this booklet are supplemental. They do not replace applicable laws, licensing requirements, employer policies, or accreditation criteria. The Alliance is independent; adoption by reference does not imply affiliation, accreditation, approval, or endorsement.

Section 1

Ethical Responsibilities to Children

Safety and Well-Being: Above all else, we shall create safe, healthy, nurturing, and inclusive environments that protect children from physical, emotional, or psychological harm.

Developmental Practice: We shall implement developmentally appropriate practices that respect each child's unique pace, cultural background, learning style, and individual potential.

Positive Guidance: We shall use positive, constructive guidance techniques that promote self-regulation, empathy, and conflict resolution, strictly prohibiting harsh, punitive, or demeaning methods.

Section 2

Ethical Responsibilities to Families

Trust and Partnership: We shall build collaborative, respectful partnerships with families, recognizing parents and guardians as children's primary and most important nurturers and educators.

Confidentiality: We shall safeguard the privacy of children and families, ensuring that sensitive personal, developmental, or financial information is handled with strict confidentiality.

Transparent Communication: We shall maintain clear, honest, and professional communication regarding program policies, operational standards, fees, and children's progress.

Section 3

Professional Commitment and Integrity

Adherence to Professional Standards: Alliance members shall follow the NAEYC Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators as the Alliance's adopted ethical foundation. Members operating family child care programs shall also use the NAFCC Accreditation Quality Standards as an applicable quality benchmark. All members must follow applicable licensing requirements, laws, regulations, and program-specific obligations.

Continuous Growth: We are committed to lifelong learning, regularly updating our professional skills, completing ongoing continuing education, and expanding our leadership capacity.

Organizational Governance: Leaders and officers of the Alliance shall act with complete honesty, transparency, and fiduciary care, avoiding conflicts of interest and ensuring that all organizational assets are managed strictly for the advancement of our nonprofit mission.

Section 4

Responsibilities to Colleagues and the Community

Mutual Respect: We shall treat fellow educators, providers, and community partners with dignity, professional courtesy, and respect, fostering a spirit of mentorship and shared advocacy.

Public Advocacy: We shall advocate actively for policies, resources, and recognition that elevate the status and professional sustainability of home-based and center-based early childhood educators.

Safeguards for Home-Based, Center-Based, and Lab Programs

Integrity of the Operating Environment: Family child care providers, lab-home operators, and center-based educators shall maintain environments that balance a warm, supportive atmosphere with rigorous professional standards of health, safety, and intentional early learning.

Health and Environmental Safety Safeguards: We shall enforce strict health, sanitation, and childproofing protocols, ensuring that indoor and outdoor learning spaces—including converted classrooms, dining areas, and garden play zones—are meticulously maintained to protect children from preventable hazards.

Professional Boundaries and Privacy: Because family child care integrates a residential setting with professional operations, providers shall maintain clear, respectful boundaries between private family spaces and approved child care spaces, safeguarding the privacy and security of both enrolled families and the household.

Lab Program Ethics and Supervision: In lab environments dedicated to educator training, observation, and workforce development, operators and trainees shall uphold absolute confidentiality regarding children and families, ensuring that observation and practical learning never compromise children's dignity, comfort, or routine.

Equitable Care and Inclusion: We shall provide equitable access and inclusive care, ensuring that every child—regardless of developmental ability, background, or family structure—receives individualized support and respectful engagement.

Section 6

Legislative and Regulatory Compliance

National Core: This Code of Ethics and the Alliance's supplemental professional commitments apply to members, officers, representatives, and participating hubs across every state and region.

Compliance with Law: Alliance members shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; child care licensing or registration requirements; health and safety regulations; background-screening requirements; mandated-reporting duties; disability and nondiscrimination protections; and recordkeeping requirements governing their programs and professional roles.

State Addenda: Each state hub may maintain a reviewed state compliance addendum identifying that jurisdiction's licensing agency, required filings, reporting duties, training requirements, and other state-specific obligations.

Regional and County Procedures: Regional and county hubs may maintain local operating procedures and resource information that reflect local requirements. A local procedure may strengthen protections but may not weaken the national code or any applicable law.

Conflicts and Higher Requirements: When Alliance guidance and applicable law differ, members must follow the controlling law and the stricter lawful protection. Questions requiring interpretation should be directed to the responsible licensing authority or a qualified professional.

A state, regional, or county addendum applies only within the jurisdiction it identifies. The Alliance Records Hub should retain the current approved version, effective date, responsible reviewer, and source links for every addendum.

Adoption and Acknowledgment

The Board of Directors adopts by reference the NAEYC Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators as the Alliance’s foundational ethical code, recognizes the NAFCC Accreditation Quality Standards as an applicable family child care benchmark, and adopts the supplemental Alliance standards contained in this booklet for its operational, educational, membership, and governance activities.

Approved and adopted on this 26th day of August, 2026.

Tambra M. Newton President / Director	Date
Arthur W. Newton Treasurer / Director	Date



**THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR HOME-BASED AND
CENTER-BASED EDUCATORS**

Together • Empower • Elevate

Professional references:
NAEYC Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators
NAFCC Accreditation Quality Standards