

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD TOTS LA RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

SAN PEDRO, CA – WORLD TOTS LA, the child day care center operated by the YWCA of the Harbor Area at the Port of Los Angeles' Liberty Hill Plaza, recently received a five-year re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



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After 5:00 p.m.:

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WORLD TOTS LA is the only center open to the public in San Pedro that has received this accreditation, awarded to approximately seven percent of childcare centers worldwide.

"We are extremely proud of WORLD TOTS LA," said Helene Pizzini, Executive Director of the YWCA of the Harbor Area. "This is a reflection of the high-quality vision our director and staff share for the center."

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, the director and through classroom observations. Professionals trained by the NAEYC conduct an on-site visit to validate the information received, and a team of national experts who grant the accreditation then independently reviews the program. WORLD TOTS LA first received NAEYC accreditation in 1999.

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“The heart of all this is the child’s experience at our center, said WORLD TOTS LA director Denise Malik Ochoa. “This process considers every aspect of our program, including health and safety, staffing, teacher/child ratios, staff qualifications and the overall physical environment. The greatest emphasis is on the children’s relationships with our staff and how our program helps each child grow intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.”

The NAEYC accreditation is shown to benefit the development of children’s language and social skills, due to the better quality of instruction found in accredited programs. “My staff and I walk in the door each day knowing that we can be a positive influence in a child’s life,” Malik Ochoa said.

NAEYC, the nation’s largest organization of early childhood professionals, began its accreditation program in 1985. For more information about NAEYC and its accreditation process, visit NAEYC’s website at www.naeyc.org, or contact NAEYC’s public affair’s office at (800) 424-2460.

The Port of Los Angeles established WORLD TOTS LA in accordance with Port and City of Los Angeles policies supporting affordable, accessible, quality childcare. The center opened in October 1994 and serves 60 children ranging in age from six weeks to five years. WORLD TOTS LA, located at 100 W. Fifth Street, San Pedro, offers full-time and part-time day care and parenting classes. Approximately 25% of its spaces are designated for harbor area children from low-income households. For more information about WORLD TOTS LA enrollment and programs, call Malik Ochoa at (310) 732-7697.