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**La Petite Academy in Simi Valley  
Achieves National Accreditation**

SIMI VALLEY, Calif., July 6, 2009 – La Petite Academy – located at 85 Bonita Drive – is pleased to announce that it has achieved the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). They are among 29 early education and child care providers throughout the state of California to have achieved this prestigious recognition.

“Providing children with a quality early education program is of the utmost importance to us at La Petite Academy,” said Merrily Mellin, academy director. “It is an honor to have our efforts recognized by NECPA and we intend to continue providing this high level of excellence to all of the children in our care every day.”

Earning NECPA is no easy task and consists of several components. It begins with a self-assessment of the program by management, staff and parents to determine how closely NECPA standards are being met. The second step is developing an action plan to address any weaknesses, followed by an onsite visit by a trained NECPA verifier. The fourth and final component is a review by the NECPA National Accreditation Council. Accreditation is granted for three years with satisfactory annual reviews.

NECPA, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1993 to encourage the availability of high quality early education programs for America’s families.

**About La Petite Academy**

Headquartered in Novi, Mich., La Petite Academy is a leader in early childhood education with nearly 550 schools in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Its *Journey@* curriculum takes a total approach to learning, focusing on six areas of development, including Language, Cognitive, Socio-Emotional, Physical, Creativity-Arts and Character Building. Each program is based on age-appropriate learning objectives and is designed to keep children on the right pace for their development. For more information on La Petite Academy or to find a school in your area, please visit [www.lapetite.com](http://www.lapetite.com).

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