

THE PROFESSIONAL PARENTING PROGRAM
RECEIVES THE SEAL OF ACCREDITATION FROM HRC

The Human Rights Campaign was founded in 1980 and is the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization (HRC, 2011). HRC (2011) represents a force of more than one million members and supporters nationwide and envisions an America where LGBT people are ensured of their basic equal rights, and can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community. HRC's, - All Children - All Families (ACAF) initiative seeks to enhance LGBT cultural competence among child welfare professionals and educate LGBT people about opportunities to become foster or adoptive parents to waiting children (HRC, 2011). The Professional Parenting Programs (PPP) has worked very hard over the past several months to achieve 10 benchmarks that demonstrate LGBT cultural competence. As stated in the Professional Parenting Programs' mission statement which is also one of the necessary benchmarks for the seal; The Professional Parenting Program believes that every child, regardless of disability, age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, has the right to grow up in a family that respects and supports them. We commit to organizing our service and supports to enact this value. We welcome as prospective parents: single persons, heterosexual couples (married and unmarried); gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals or couples; and multiracial couples. The Professional Parenting Program supports all families with equal dignity and respects. In partnership with our diverse group of families, The Professional Parenting Program strives to provide each child the opportunity to reach his or her potential as an individual. It is our intention that IPP's Professional Parenting Community, both staff and parents will truly embrace a spirit of acceptance for all and in so doing foster a belief that acknowledges each child as a unique and dynamic individual that holds gifts and talents which are to be cultivated by those who love and care for them. The process for achieving this seal included modifications in such areas as staff training, program policy development and documentation, environmental changes, and revisions of current training materials for parents in order to create an open, affirming, and welcoming environment for all. This seal is very prestigious and significant accomplishment for PPP as there are only 14 agencies in the entire country that have been awarded this seal. The Professional Parenting Program is very excited about receiving the Seal and will be holding an event in the near future to formally accept the Seal- which will be presented by a representative from the Human Rights Campaign. We hope that all members of our community will come join us in celebrating this wonderful achievement.

Human Rights Campaign, (2011). All Children All Families.

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