



DAP HANDOUT

Principles of Child Development and Learning & Implications That Inform Practice

NAEYC's guidelines and recommendations for developmentally appropriate practice are based on the following nine principles and their implications for early childhood education professional practice. These principles reflect an extensive research base. Because these principles are interrelated, this linear list does not fully represent their overall complexity.

1. Development and learning are dynamic processes.
2. All domains of child development are important; each domain both supports and is supported by the others.
3. Play promotes joyful learning. Play is essential for all children.
4. Although general progressions of development and learning can be identified, variations must be considered.
5. Children are active learners from birth.
6. Children's motivation to learn is increased when their learning environment fosters their sense of belonging, purpose, and agency.
7. Children learn in an integrated fashion that cuts across academic disciplines or subject areas.
8. Development and learning advance when children are challenged to achieve at a level just beyond their current mastery.
9. Used responsibly and intentionally, technology and interactive media can be valuable tools for supporting children's learning and development.

To learn more: [NAEYC.org/resources/position-statements/dap/contents](https://naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/contents)