



## DAP HANDOUT

# Guidelines for Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Action

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## Using Knowledge of Child Development and Learning in Context

Based on the child development principles the following guidelines address decisions that early childhood professionals make in five key and interrelated areas of practice. These guidelines work hand in hand with [Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators](#); they are based on the assumption that, as part of the sixth professional standard regarding professionalism, educators are advocating for policies and financing that support the equitable implementation of developmentally appropriate practice across all states and settings serving children birth through age 8.

1. Creating a caring, equitable community of learners
2. Engaging in reciprocal partnerships with families and fostering community connections
3. *Observing, documenting, and assessing* children's development and learning
4. Teaching to enhance each child's development and learning
5. Planning and implementing an engaging curriculum to achieve meaningful goals
6. Demonstrating professionalism as an early childhood educator

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