

NAEYC Faculty Resource Guide: Spring 2026 Planning Edition

Plan your spring syllabi with trusted NAEYC resources that align with professional standards and strengthen educator preparation programs.

The Intentional Teacher, Third Edition

- **Target Course Fit:** Curriculum, Teaching Methods, and Child Development courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Research-based strategies for balancing intentional teaching and child-guided learning.
 - Practical examples showing how to scaffold play and inquiry to meet learning goals across disciplines, including science, literacy, the arts, and social-emotional learning.
 - Emphasis on reflective teaching and responsive interactions across content areas.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Use for coursework on teacher decision-making, observation, and instructional design.

Nature-Based Early Childhood Education

- **Target Course Fit:** Curriculum, Methods, and Play courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Practical strategies for designing nature-rich learning environments and experiences.
 - Emphasis on inquiry, play, and holistic development.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Integrate readings into environment design assignments or reflection journals.

Making and Tinkering with STEM, Second Edition

- **Target Course Fit:** STEM, Science Methods, Curriculum and Inquiry-Based Learning courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - 35 new and revised design challenges for children ages 3–8.
 - Guidance for integrating maker spaces, problem solving, and engineering habits of mind.
 - Strong link between literacy, creativity, and STEM.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Use design challenges as assignments for preservice teachers or as models for integrating STEM into play-based learning.

Computational Thinking and Young Children

- **Target Course Fit:** STEM, Curriculum Innovation, Technology Integration, and Curriculum courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Developmentally appropriate ways to build computational thinking through play, logic, and sequencing.
 - Focus on creative and critical thinking without relying on screens.
 - Bridges concepts across literacy, math, and science.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Pair readings with inquiry projects on digital literacy or early math reasoning. Combine with Making and Tinkering for a technology and innovation module.

Becoming a Culturally Responsive Teacher (January 2026 Release)

- **Target Course Fit:** Diversity, Inclusion, and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Framework for self-reflection, bias awareness, and inclusive practice.
 - Strategies to build belonging and strengthen family partnerships.
 - Real educator stories for classroom discussion and reflection.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Assign reflection essays on teaching identity or use as a capstone text in fieldwork or practicum seminars.

Code of Ethics (Current Edition)

- **Target Course Fit:** Intro, Seminars, Ethics, Professionalism, and Advocacy courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Core ethical principles that define professional early childhood practice.
 - Decision-making framework for complex teaching and leadership scenarios.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Incorporate case study analysis or role-play activities around ethical dilemmas.
- **Included Resource:** A [crosswalk](#) comparing the revised (2025) Code of Ethics position statement and the third edition of Ethics and the Early Childhood Educator helps faculty bridge content and prepare for the forthcoming update to the book.

[Access the Full NAEYC Book Catalog: Explore all current and upcoming titles in NAEYC's digital catalog here including best sellers like:](#)

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP), Fourth Edition

- **Target Course Fit:** Intro, Curriculum, and Methods courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Comprehensive framework connecting theory, research, and effective practice for children from birth through age 8.
 - Expanded focus on equity, inclusion, and the professional knowledge base of early childhood educators.
 - Aligns directly with the *Professional Standards and Competencies*.
- **Adoption Ideas:** Assign as a core text in multiple foundational ECE or practicum courses. Pair with discussions on culturally responsive and evidence-based teaching.

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves

- **Target Course Fit:** Diversity, Inclusion, Social Justice, and Early Childhood Methods courses
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Practical guidance for building an anti-bias program that supports children's identities, family strengths, and inclusive communities.
 - Deepens understanding of how bias, privilege, and power affect young children and supports educator reflection.
- **Adoption Ideas:**

Use as a core text for courses on equity and teaching practice; assign reflective journals or case studies on how to implement anti-bias pedagogy in early childhood settings.