Clear, Relevant, Evidence-Based Guidance to Support Early Childhood Educators

Developmentally appropriate practice is the foundation on which quality early learning is built.

- Addresses developmentally appropriate practice within the context of the ever-changing and evolving world of early childhood education.
- Provides content about teaching and supporting all children and underscores the importance of social, cultural, and historical contexts of development.

Research Based

- Based on what the research says about child development, how children learn, and effective practices—as well as what professional experience tells the field about intentional teaching.
- Extensive examples of effective approaches for teaching children across the early childhood spectrum as well as specific examples for infants and toddlers, preschoolers, kindergartners, and children in the primary grades.

Resources for Early Childhood Professionals

- Provides a comprehensive approach to implementing practices that ensure all young children have access to high-quality early learning.
- Resources in the book and online support higher education faculty, K–3 leaders, and early childhood educators in extending their own and others’ knowledge and application of developmentally appropriate practice.

Key Components of DAP

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

3 Core Considerations
9 Principles
6 Guidelines for Practice