

**Michigan AEYC stands with NAEYC and their publication, Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in Early Childhood Programs.**

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a non-partisan organization which has helped hundreds of thousands of early childhood educators create joyful and safe learning environments in which millions of young children and their families have thrived and has been at the forefront of building a foundation for high-quality early childhood education over our nearly 100 years of history. We are proud of the ways in which DAP resources have been created for and with educators and families through extensive consensus-building processes. We lift up the ways in which current and past generations of educators and families across states and communities have embraced and relied upon DAP in their centers, classrooms, and homes. We stand in support of DAP as the bedrock principles of early childhood education – and those who stand up to defend those principles – come under renewed attack.

Developmentally appropriate practice is a resource for educators, not a curriculum for children. It brings together key understandings of research and evidence-based practice in child development and education to describe how children learn and to help educators create experiences and environments that best support their children, families, programs, and communities. It is deeply and essentially a part of the Vision of both NAEYC and Michigan AEYC that all children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential. It is a commitment to the simple truth that children learn best when they feel safe and seen.

NAEYC's DAP resources have been created for and with educators and families, who have embraced and relied upon them in states and communities across the country. The challenges facing developmentally appropriate practice, however, are not new, nor are they about one organization, one leader, or one state. They are about all of us, our effective practices, and our collective ability to support, educate, and care for all our children and their families.

Our Michigan early childhood system is supported by the Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Birth to Kindergarten. Revised and approved by the State Board of Education in 2022, the standards provide a framework for early childhood programs in Michigan aligned with the most recent research in child development and effective programming for young children. These standards align with and are supported by NAEYC's documents and position statements and stand on Michigan's more than 50-year tradition of national leadership in the early childhood field.

We stand behind the principles of DAP, including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Equitability ensures resources are distributed based on need so that all can participate fairly. All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society, which includes diverse educators. We support initiatives that embrace diversity and full inclusion as strengths, promote anti-bias education, uphold fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and work to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

We trust the expertise and experiences of early childhood educators working with families to ensure young children can learn and thrive in our diverse world. And we bring our voices together to provide clarity and support for our continued, collective work to ensure that all young children can access high-quality, developmentally appropriate early learning experiences across all states, settings, and communities.