



Institute for
**Child Development
Professionals**

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NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS SUPPORTS NAEYC AND DAP

We, the board of directors of the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals (Institute), stand firmly in support of the fourth edition of the Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) by the non-profit, non-partisan organization the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The DAP publication is based on comprehensive research that is critical to the work of the early childhood field; and serves as a resource to support the professional development of early educators across the country.

NAEYC supports high-quality early learning for young children and families. The recent decision of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey to ban DAP is disappointing. Furthermore, forcing Dr. Barbara Cooper, who has worked tirelessly for children and families, to resign as early childhood education director reflects the failure to understand the value of teaching children how to navigate the world they live in and understand diversity, equity, and inclusion. We join Dr. Cooper in her defense of the DAP principles, along with other early educators and organizations.

What is developmentally appropriate for children should not become politically motivated; and should never be the outcome in the loss of a publication or leadership. NAEYC has worked for nearly four decades with families and educators to provide research and evidence that has served as a framework to support those who work with and on behalf of young children. Using DAP provides educators the opportunity to develop appropriate learning environments that support how children develop skills and knowledge. Children live within families and communities; and learn from their social and cultural surroundings. Recognizing that the brain of a child develops ninety percent by age five further supports the importance of the DAP resource to help educators meet the changing needs of our young children culturally, socially, emotionally, and physically.

The mission of the **Institute** is **to promote the implementation of a comprehensive professional development and recognition system that links education and compensation for the early care and education workforce to ensure high quality care**. Resources such as the 4th edition of Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Programs strengthen the learning of our early educators and increases their success as professionals in the field of early care and education. We encourage others to stand with NAEYC in support of DAP.

Anna Mercer-McLean, Board President
NC Institute for Child Development Professionals
Former Board Member, NAEYC

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