



Supporting
Early Education
in a **COMMON-
CORE** Era

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Supporting Early Education in a Common-Core Era

Expert Presenters:

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**An on-demand archive of this
webinar will be available at
www.edweek.org/go/webinar
in less than 24 hrs.**

Common Core State Standards and Early Childhood Education



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What are we talking about – Common Core?

1. Common Core State Standards have been adopted by most states, although stage of implementation and commitment varies.
2. Common Core provide learning standards for children K-12 in English Language Arts and Math – they are silent on any other area of development, except for some integration
3. Intended to allow common goals and common assessments across states.





What are we talking about – Early Childhood?

1. Period of child learning and development from birth to 3rd grade
2. Dominant instructional model – developmentally appropriate practice (DAP)
3. Common Core directly affects K-3, indirectly affects birth to K
4. All states currently have early learning standards for preschool-aged children, most for infants and toddlers
5. States are working to align early learning standards with Common Core





What are we talking about – Concerns in ECE?

- Inappropriate push-down of academic content, or, “The standards are not developmentally appropriate”
 - Question of content validation

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What are we talking about – Concerns in ECE?

- Inappropriate push-down of academic content, or, “The standards are not developmentally appropriate”
 - Question of content validation
- Standards force a change in teaching practice, or “The standards are a threat to developmentally appropriate practice”
 - Question of implementation – preserving developmentally appropriate practice





Using DAP to meet ~~Common Core State~~ Standards in Kindergarten Classrooms

Ideally, well conceived standards or learning goals are in place to guide local schools and programs in choosing or developing comprehensive, appropriate curriculum. The curriculum framework is a starting place, then ***teachers can use their expertise to make adaptations*** as needed to optimize the fit with the children. Further, such curricular guidance gives teachers some direction in providing the materials, learning experiences, and teaching strategies that promote learning goals most effectively, allowing them to ***focus on instructional decision making*** without having to generate the entire curriculum themselves.

-NAEYC (2009) position statement on developmentally appropriate practice (pp. 5-6)





What is Developmentally Appropriate Practice?

- Instructional Approach
 - Teachers use multiple formats (small and large group, individual, child- and teacher selected activities)
 - Teachers use multiple strategies (encourage, demonstrate, model, ask questions, feedback, etc.)
 - Include play
 - Intentionality
 - Appropriate assessment for young children





In what ways might the Common Core support DAP?

1. Writers explicitly say the Common Core does not prescribe instruction, or even specific curricula
2. Further, they explicitly say that play can be a means to meeting the standards
3. There is room for children to meet standards alone or with guidance
4. There is some flexibility in how children can meet standards





In what ways does the Common Core pose a threat to DAP?

General threats to DAP

- Downward pressure from non-DAP
- Increasing focus on high stakes assessment
- Teacher's limited knowledge of and use of DAP
- Administrator's limited knowledge of and support for DAP





In what ways does the Common Core pose a threat to DAP?

Threats to DAP related to Common Core

- Narrowing of instructional focus to math and English language arts.
- Reliance on specific instructional approaches (e.g., teacher-directed instruction) over others (e.g., play).
- Emphasis on, and approach to, assessment in early grades.
- Standards may not be developmentally appropriate (content and age validity).





What can I do?

- Strengthen your knowledge about, practice of, and advocacy and support for, DAP
- Clearly identify the challenge(s) you face and are in position to address
- Find resources and support (books, trainings, peers, etc.)



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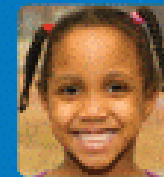
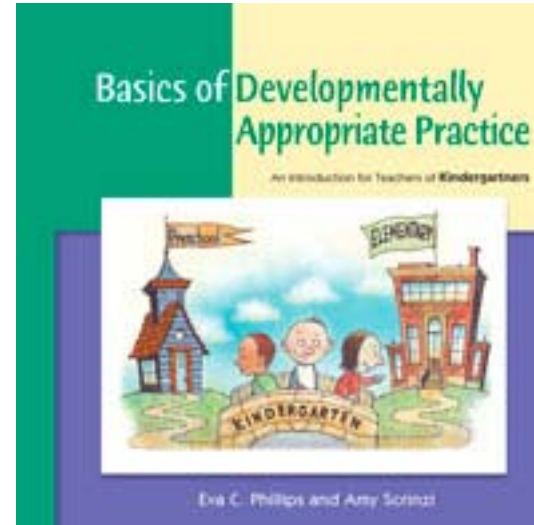




Resources



- NAEYC DAP web (<http://www.naeyc.org/DAP>)
- DAP books and trainings
- Common Core resources from NAEYC (<http://www.naeyc.org/topics/common-core>)
- Common Core training provided by and for early educators
- Community of Learners, Peers



Developmentally Appropriate Practice:
Focus on Kindergartners

Carol Copple, Sue Bredekamp,
Derry Koussis, and Kathy Charney, editors





Supporting Early Education in a Common-Core Era

March 20, 2014

Waterford.org



Jefferson PK-8
Warren City Schools
Warren, Ohio

Warren, Ohio

located in northeast Ohio approximately 60 miles from Cleveland, Ohio and Pittsburgh, PA

Major industry : GM Lordstown, maker of the Chevy Cruze

Warren City Schools

4 PK-8 Schools

1 High School

Approximately 5,000 students

Student Demographics

Enrollment

777 students

Enrollment by subgroup

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| African American | 380 | 48.9% |
| Hispanic | 24 | 3.1% |
| Multiracial | 119 | 15.3% |
| White, non-Hispanic | 252 | 32.4% |
| Students with Disabilities | 145 | 18.6% |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 771 | 99.3% |
| Limited English Proficiency | 14 | 1.8% |

PK-2 Teachers

Classroom teachers 14

Intervention Specialists 3

Years of teaching experience avg. 6.8 years

70% have 5 or less years teaching experience

38% of the teaching staff is new to Warren City

Schools



Participant in CAYL Wean Scholars Fellowship

Dr. Valora Washington, President

www.cayl.org

Q & A



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Classroom Advantage



- Pre-K to 2nd Grade
- 4,800 CCSS aligned activities, books and songs
- Search by CCSS to create or supplement curriculum
- Share and collaborate playlists

Thank You!

Partner with Waterford, a nonprofit research center providing proven-effective early learning Reading, Math and Science curriculum.

WaterfordEarlyLearning.org

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Required Reading from *Education Week*:

[Early Years Blog](#)

Education Week staff writer Christina A. Samuels and contributing writer Julie Blair share news and analysis on topics relevant to early learning.