



Topic I:

Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

Table of Contents

California's Children

Developmentally appropriate practice demands that early childhood programming and assessment be appropriate for the population served. This section contains demographic information specific to California's children. Prior to the session, participants access and read the policy brief, transcript, handouts and presentations. During the session, participants reflect on the readings and resources and create a bullet list of important considerations to remember about the children in California.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice

The term developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) refers to a framework of principles and guidelines for practice that promotes young children's optimal learning and development (NAEYC, 2009). Prior to the session, participants access and read the articles and handouts. During the interactive session, participants view the video, "What Does Developmentally Appropriate Practice Look Like?" Participants will develop a job aid to use when visiting programs to assist them in focusing on critical elements of good practice.

Preschool Learning Foundations

In response to the **Good Start, Grow Smart** initiative, states developed guidelines on early childhood pre-reading and language skills activities that align with state K-12 standards. California's response was to create a comprehensive set of guidelines for multiple domains called the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Prior to the session, participants access and read the position statement, executive summary, article and handouts. During the interactive session, participants view the overview of the foundations.

California's Early Learning and Development System

In an effort to provide the highest quality programs for children and families as well as provide support and resources to teachers and programs, the California Department of Education, Child Development Division created the California Early Learning and Development System. The research-based system includes foundations, frameworks, assessment, and accountability with resources and professional development..

Early Childhood Inclusion

In response to federal mandates for providing educational services for children with disabilities in the "least restrictive environment," California has seen an increase in inclusive early childhood programs. Children in these programs are a mix of typically developing children and children with various disabilities. This session will address policies and best practices to support all children in inclusive programs. Prior to the session, participants access and read the position statement, brief package, and handouts.

Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

Universal design for learning (UDL) demands not only that curriculum be accessible to children with disabilities, but also that it be accessible to children who are English learners. Prior to the session, participants access and read the position statement and article and review the book.