



A Statement from the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
on Developmentally Appropriate Practice

The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance, the membership organization for Colorado's system of 35 Early Childhood Councils, Colorado's state license holder for the National T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood[®] Scholarship, and a provider of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative's Back to Work Scholarship, stands with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the principles of Developmentally Appropriate Practice, and the authors of the 4th Edition.

As an organization dedicated to a vision of a comprehensive early childhood system that promotes thriving young children, families, and communities, we believe in developmentally appropriate practice principles and the resources it has provided to guide early childhood professionals for over 40 years. Grounded in decades of research, developmentally appropriate practice, helps us, as early childhood professionals, to focus on the interaction of individual child development, normative child development, and the critical context family and community brings to early care and education environments. It provides support and resources to ensure rich early learning environments and experiences that support children to gain the skills and tools they need for academic success. Children must feel seen, safe, and supported to thrive and we believe that the principles of developmentally appropriate practice are the foundation.

The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliances works to support local early childhood systems and directly serves over 200 students pursuing degrees and certificates in the early childhood profession. We trust that the principles of developmentally appropriate practice are relevant, meaningful, and critical to support healthy child development that results in thriving children, families, and communities.

Sincerely,
The Staff and Board of the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance