

Understanding Belonging, Being, and Becoming

Australia's Early Years Learning Framework is guided by the concepts of belonging, being, and becoming, which are central to children's learning and development. This website explains each of those concepts and offers extensive examples of ways in which educators, families, and communities can integrate the concepts into daily practice. <https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/childcare-programming/understanding-belonging-being-and-becoming>

Creating a Caring, Equitable Community of Learners (Guideline 1 for Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Action)

A key resource on the topic of building a caring community of learners is the [NAEYC position statement on developmentally appropriate practice \(DAP\)](#). The first guideline for implementing DAP stresses the importance of how early learning settings help children learn how to treat others and how they can expect to be treated. It specifies that "*the foundation for the community is consistent, positive, caring relationships,*" and stresses how "*each member of the learning community is valued for what they bring to the community.*" Read this section of the position statement on DAP to learn about ways in which early childhood educators should be addressing the content of this guideline.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/creating-community>

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/dap_ps_spanish.pdf (Spanish - page 15)

Building a Focus on Caring Communities for Young Children into Leadership Efforts

Does your work involve helping others to understand how to create caring communities of young learners? You may do that as a faculty member or instructor, or you may do that as an early childhood leader or administrator. Resources designed to help others understand the importance of membership and belonging for young children (articles, PowerPoint slides, and handouts) are all available in a Google folder (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y69ZXeeFEALBCJvJM628ynaqfydKQ9J4>). The materials were part of a June 2024 NAEYC presentation. NOTE: Thank you, Brandi Slider and Kyoka Hashimoto, for your help in creating this set of resources.

Wondering What You Can Do to Create a Caring Community of Young Learners?

Reflection is one of the most powerful tools in the repertoire of each early childhood professional. With that in mind, the designers of the above-mentioned presentation created a reflection tool to assist early childhood colleagues in examining their current practices related to building caring equitable communities for young children and their families. Use the tool to acknowledge the practices you are already using and to consider ways in which you might do even more.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wFAnFrjJ0zMn2ilu_GX01S1Phe0mpuJF/edit

GUMDROP: Somebody

This 1-minute clip is a great reminder of the role we can play in supporting each and every young child.

<https://youtu.be/oY9MIz99z0A?t=49>

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources in English and Spanish are **highlighted**. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu