SANFORD CHILDREN'S CHILD Services

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Department of Health

Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Education



Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) serves as a cornerstone for fostering the holistic growth and development of young children. Grounded in research, DAP focuses on promoting optimal learning experiences tailored to the developmental stages of each child.

What is DAP?

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) refers to educational practices based on research about how children develop and learn. It involves making decisions about the well-being and education of young children based on three core considerations: commonality in children's development and learning, individuality reflecting each child's unique characteristics, and the context in which a child lives. These principles help educators create effective and supportive learning experiences that promote each child's optimal development.

The foundation of DAP rests on three core considerations:

- **Commonality**. Commonality refers to the understanding that while all children go through a predictable sequence of developmental stages, each child may progress at their own pace.
- Individuality. Individuality recognizes that each child is unique, with their own strengths, interests, and needs. Educators must observe and understand each child to tailor their teaching strategies, ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive.
- Context. Context considers the various influences that shape a child's development, including family, culture, community, and socioeconomic factors.

Guidelines for DAP in Action?

To effectively implement DAP, educators follow six essential guidelines:

- Creating a caring community of learners.
- Establishing mutual relationships with families.
- Observing, documenting and assessing children's development and learning.
- Teaching to enhance each child's development and learning.
- Planning and implementing an engaging curriculum to achieve meaning goals.
- Demonstrating professionalism and reflecting on one's practice.

Teaching Strategies

Below are several strategies to enhance children's Learning

- Acknowledge what children do or say.
- Encourage persistence and effort.
- Give specific feedback.
- Model attitudes, approaches to problems, and behavior toward others.
- Demonstrate the correct way to do something.
- Create or add challenges.
- Ask questions that provoke thinking.
- Give assistance.
- Give information directly, providing facts, verbal labels, and other details.
- Give directions for actions or behavior.

The essence of DAP is making the right choices for children based on an understanding of child development and learning. It is a continuous process of observation, reflection, and adaptation.

In implementing DAP, educators take responsibility of nurturing the child's individual development and creating learning experiences that benefit the whole child.

Meet the Staff

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By understanding and implementing DAP, educators can create nurturing, responsive, and enriching environments that support children's cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development.

FACE TO FACE Learning Opportunities

General Classes

Classes for caregivers of all ages of children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Wednesday, October 30	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Being a Mandated Reporter Learn what it means to be a mandated reporter and how to stress the importance of this role with staff.	Sioux Falls
Monday, November 11	6 – 7 p.m.	Cognitive Development - Social Studies This class will help explain the importance of setting up your environment into different interest areas, such as dramatic play and block center, to help enhance social emotional and cognitive development in your childcare setting.	Sioux Falls
Thursday, December 5	6 – 7 p.m.	Parent Communication Styles Parents have a variety of personalities and communication styles. Learn different parent styles and tips to effectively communicate with parents.	Sioux Falls
Wednesday, December 11	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	The Third Teacher The environment is so important in child care, it's often called the third teacher. Explore how to make your environment the best it can be for the children in your care.	Sioux Falls

Infant/Toddler Classes

Classes with an emphasis on caring for six week to three year old children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Wednesday, October 30	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Child Care Essentials: Reducing the Risk of SIDS</u> Protect the children in your care by creating a safe sleep environment to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).	Sioux Falls
Monday, November 11	7 – 8 p.m.	Prevention is Key! Understanding Behavior Management This class focuses on de-escalation strategies and proactive solutions that teachers and other adults can use when working with children.	Sioux Falls
Tuesday, November 12	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Make & Take – Sensory Bins for Infants Learn about the importance of sensory input and how sensory bins support children's development through the exploration of their senses and use of fine motor skills. Receive items to take back and use with children in your care.	Aberdeen
Wednesday, December 4	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Make & Take – Sensory Bins for Toddlers Learn about the importance of sensory input and how sensory bins support children's development through the exploration of their senses and use of fine motor skills. Receive items to take back and use with children in your care.	Sioux Falls
Thursday, December 5	7 – 8 p.m.	<u>Child Care Essentials: Reducing the Risk of SIDS</u> Protect the children in your care by creating a safe sleep environment to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).	Sioux Falls

POLICY

FACE TO FACE CLASS POLICY

- 1. Class participants arriving later than 10 minutes past the class start time will not be allowed to attend class as the facility doors will be locked.
- 2. In order to maintain an appropriate learning environment for all class attendees, children are not allowed to attend classes.

Preschool Classes

Classes with an emphasis on caring for three to five year old children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Monday, October 14	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Make & Take – Cozy Corner Providers will learn about the purpose of a cozy corner, items to put in a cozy corner, and receive items to take back and use with children in their care.	Sioux Falls
Tuesday, November 12	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Make & Take - Sensory Bin for Preschoolers Learn how sensory bins support children's development through the exploration of their senses and use of fine motor skills. Receive items to take back and use with children in your care.	Aberdeen
Wednesday, December 11	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Make & Take - Cozy Corner Providers will learn about the purpose of a cozy corner, items to put in a cozy corner, and receive items to take back and use with children in their care.	Sioux Falls

OST Classes

Classes specific to care provided in out of school time settings

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Monday, October 14	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Understanding the Challenging Child</u> Tips to promote and teach school-age children positive ways to deal with challenging behaviors.	Sioux Falls
Wednesday, December 4	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Coping Skills for Young Children Coping skills are critical to building resilience and a child's wellbeing. Learn ways to build coping skills with the children in your care.	Sioux Falls

Saturday Spectacular Classes

One-day event with classes for childcare providers on various ages and settings

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Saturday, November 16	9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<u>Parent Communication Styles</u> Parents have a variety of personalities and communication styles. Learn different parent styles and tips to effectively communicate with parents.	Aberdeen
Saturday, November 16	10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Hooray for Lesson Plans Having a weekly plan keeps your life going smoothor at least smoother. Find out what lesson planning is all about, what a plan includes, and resources to help you out.	Aberdeen
Saturday, November 16	11 a.m. – Noon	Thinking Outside the Box Tired of the same old toys, learn how to use materials in new ways.	Aberdeen
Saturday, December 14	9 – 10 a.m.	Make & Take - Sensory Bin for Preschoolers Learn about the importance of sensory input and how sensory bins support children's development through the exploration of their senses and use of fine motor skills. Create your own sensory bin to take back to your classroom.	Sioux Falls
Saturday, December 14	10 – 11 a.m.	Make & Take – Visual Schedules Learn about the importance of using a visual schedule in your daily routine and make your own to take back to your program.	Sioux Falls

Certified First Aid Classes

The American Heart Association's Pediatric First Aid course trains participants how to respond to and manage illnesses and injuries in a child or infant in the first few minutes until professional help arrives.



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, October 19	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Sioux Falls
Tuesday, October 22	6:30 – 9 p.m.	Sioux Falls
Saturday, November 2	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Aberdeen
Saturday, November 2	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Sioux Falls

Adult/Child & Infant CPR/AED Classes

This American Heart Association's course offers instructor-led course and teaches adult, child and infant CPR/AED and choking.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, October 7	6:30 – 10 p.m.	Sioux Falls	Saturday, October 5	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Yankton
Saturday, October 19	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Sioux Falls	Saturday, November 2	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Aberdeen
Saturday, November 2	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Sioux Falls	Saturday, November 9	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Mitchell
Thursday, November 7	6:30 – 10 p.m.	Sioux Falls			
Wednesday, November 13	6:30 – 10 p.m.	Sioux Falls			
Saturday, December 7	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Sioux Falls			
Monday, December 9	6:30 – 10 p.m.	Sioux Falls			



ONLINE ADULT/CHILD & INFANT CPR/AED TRAINING OPTION

Providers have an option to complete the education portion online and conduct face to face skill testing in Aberdeen or Sioux Falls.

Below is the process to conduct the education portion online and face to face skill testing:

- Complete the online course. Contact our office to receive online course link information.
- After completion of the online course, you will have 60 days to complete the faceto-face skill testing portion.
- Contact our office to schedule 1:1 skill testing. Certificate of completion of online course must be brought to skill testing.

NEWS FROM THE SIOUX FALLS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Are you a family child care provider in Sioux Falls?

Believe it or not, the end of the year is just around the corner. Please remember to get your 6 hours of continuing education before the end of the year.

Online Learning Opportunities

General Classes

Classes for caregivers of all ages of children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
Wednesday, October 23	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	<u>Do Daily Schedules Matter?</u> Daily schedules are an important part of your program, learn how to create a developmentally appropriate schedule which will make everyone's day go smoother.
Monday, December 2	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	<u>20 Positive Guidance Techniques</u> Everyone can use a toolkit of tips and tools to help guide children's emotional development and manage children's inappropriate behaviors.
Monday, December 2	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Incorporating Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom</u> Gain an understanding on how to integrate social and emotional learning into your everyday routines.

Infant/Toddler Classes

Classes with an emphasis on caring for six week to three year old children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
Monday, October 7	6 – 7 p.m.	<u>Learning Spaces for Infants and Toddlers</u> Learn to arrange your space to provide developmentally appropriate activities for infants and toddlers.
Wednesday, October 23	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	No More "No" Learn about the power of choices to create a "yes" environment while supporting each child's social and emotional development.
Tuesday, November 26	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	A Bit About Biting Just because biting is a common behavior for young children doesn't mean you should ignore it. Gain ways to decrease biting in the classroom.
Tuesday, December 10	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Peaceful Play & Naptime Transitions Discover effective ways to calm a child's mind and body while preparing them for rest time. This class will provide ideas on scheduling, activities, and techniques to help rest time be as restful as possible for both the children and providers alike.
Tuesday, December 10	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Going Beyond Praise Learn about Positive Descriptive Acknowledgement and how you can use it in your classroom to increase children's positive behavior and interactions.

Preschool Classes

Classes with an emphasis on caring for three to five year old children

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	
Monday, October 7	7 – 8 p.m.	Worksheets Don't Work Learn the importance of why worksheets are not always developmentally appropriate. Discover ways to focus on long-term understanding and bring fun, and exploration back into your classroom.	

Out of School Time Classes

Classes specific to care provided in out of school time settings

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	
Tuesday, November 26	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Beyond Counting Heads What do you do if you're over ratio? How do you make sure everyone is accounted for after a transition? Learn why ratios are import and strategies for transitions.	

fitCare Classes

Classes to help caregivers provide a healthy lifestyle program for children in their care

DATE	TIME	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
Monday, October 7	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Sweet Dreams</u> Exploring strategies for sleep and relaxation.
Monday, October 14	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Mindful Moments Supporting children's social and emotional development.
Monday, October 21	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Ready, Set, Move! Promoting physical activity and development.
Monday, October 28	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	We are What We Eat Creating healthy nutrition environments.
Monday, November 4	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Sweet Dreams</u> Exploring strategies for sleep and relaxation.
Monday, November 11	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<u>Mindful Moments</u> Supporting children's social and emotional development.
Monday, November 18	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Ready, Set, Move! Promoting physical activity and development.
Monday, November 25	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	We are What We Eat Creating healthy nutrition environments.



Activities for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age kids





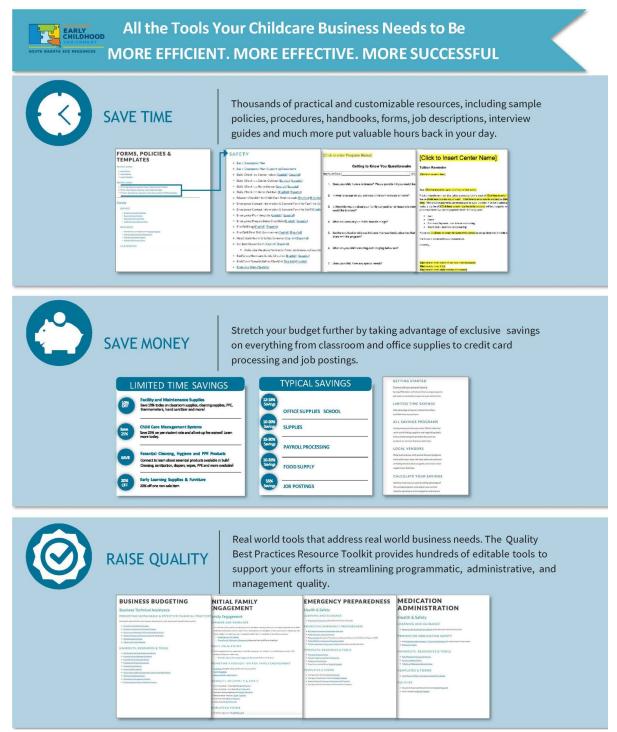


South Dakota ECE Resources

South Dakota ECE Resources is a resource hub that offers a new way for child care and school-age care providers in South Dakota to find information to support their businesses and classrooms. Features and benefits of South Dakota ECE Resources include:

- Thousands of practical and customizable resources, including sample policies, procedures, handbooks, forms, job descriptions, and interview guides
- Real world business toolkit provides hundreds of editable tools to support programmatic, administrative, and management quality
- Learning activities and resources, recommended books by age group or topic, companion learning activities, classroom
 materials, lesson plans and curriculum ideas, physical activity guides, literacy practices, and managing challenging
 behavior tools that will support educators supporting children in registered and licensed child care and school age
 programs

South Dakota ECE Resources is available at no cost to South Dakota child care and school-age care professionals working in a DSS registered or licensed program. If you are currently working in a registered or licensed child care or school age program in South Dakota. Request a free membership by visiting **sdeceresources.org**





Sanford Children's CHILD Services

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2024 TRAINING SCHEDULE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER