



Through the decisions they make, excellent teachers translate the DAP* framework into high-quality experiences for children. These guidelines address five key aspects of the teacher's role:

Creating a
caring community of learners

Teaching to enhance development and learning

Establishing reciprocal relationships with families

Assessing children's development and learning

Planning curriculum to achieve important goals

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Let's think of these guidelines as five points on a star—a "mariner's star" to guide our journey to help children learn best. Each point of the star is a vital part of good practice in early care and education. None can be left out or shortchanged without seriously weakening the whole.

To learn more about DAP visit

http://www.naeyc.org/DAP

* DAP = Developmentally Appropriate Practice