

## **developmentally appropriate** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Type of Speech:**

adjective <sup>[2]</sup>

### **Definition:**

consistent with a child's age, maturity, and/or readiness to master a particular concept or skill; of or related to teaching practices that take into account students' level of physical or mental development.

### **Additional Information:**

Focusing on how children develop and learn facilitates attention to cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs. The National Association for the Education of Young Children <sup>[3]</sup> (NAEYC) provides five guidelines for developmentally appropriate practices, particularly for early childhood education:

- creating a caring community of learners
- teaching to enhance development and learning
- constructing appropriate curriculum
- assessing children's learning and development
- establishing beneficial relationships with families

NAEYC has a position statement of guidelines for developmentally appropriate practices <sup>[4]</sup> serving children from birth through age eight.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/developmentally>

### **Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/developmentally> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/parts-speech/adjective> <sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.naeyc.org/> <sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.naeyc.org/DAP>