

Educating Young Children / Common Core

The Common Core was devised with the end result in mind. The focus of skills needed for college/career was created first and worked its way down to the formative young minds of children entering kindergarten. The developmental needs of the young students were not considered when the Common Core was developed.

I strongly urge you to invite experts in child development to speak before your committee. Contact the Gesell Institute in New Haven to ask them to speak about the needs of young children compared to the Common Core expectations. Contact the child development experts from the universities across our state to speak of Jean Piaget and the levels of child development compared to the Common Core expectations. The focus for primary students is the development of language, memory, imagination, and thought. Read alouds, the arts, play, and learning through movement are necessary for preschoolers and primary students.

If we do not consider the needs and developmental stages of young children when creating benchmarks for students for K-12, we will have ignored the developmental needs of our future generations. Isn't a student's time at the primary level better spent listening to quality literature, developing primary academic skills, social development, and engaging in meaningful learning opportunities? How much of the school year is now spent preparing for testing and the actual testing? Perhaps you should request to see the testing schedules of primary students across the state.

When discussing the Common Core as well as SEED, legislators, educators, and the entire adult community must remember that children are not products on an assembly line, they are human beings. They are precious little ones who rely on adults to make decisions that will enable them to be engaging, enthusiastic, lifelong learners.

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