



Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals Professional Dispositions

Dispositions are behaviors guided by beliefs and attitudes related to a person's values. The dispositions of early childhood professionals impact and influence the children and families they work with. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) defines professional dispositions as: "professional attitudes, values, and beliefs demonstrated through both verbal and non-verbal behaviors as educators interact with students, families, colleagues, and communities."¹

Vermont's Early Childhood Professional Dispositions

1. Delights in and is curious about children and how they grow and learn
2. Appreciates and supports the unique and vital role of families in their children's lives
3. Is eager to learn new knowledge and skills that will support young children's development and learning
4. Models the attitudes and behaviors that she/he values in children
5. Values and celebrates the diversity found among children and their families and in the world around them
6. Is willing to ask for help, to learn from others, and is accept constructive criticism
7. Reflects on the personal beliefs and values that influence her/his own actions
8. Shows respect for children, families and colleagues by maintaining confidentiality
9. Communicates clearly, respectfully and effectively with children and adults; responds to challenges and changes with flexibility, perseverance and cooperation
10. Expresses her/his own emotions in healthy and constructive ways
11. Values and nurtures imagination, creativity and play, both in children and in herself/himself;
12. Demonstrates responsible professional and personal habits in working and interacting with others
13. Has a collaborative attitude

¹ Professional Standards for the Accreditation of Teacher Preparation Institutions, NCATE (2008)