

Heather Leaderstorf, Parent

Governor Cuomo, I have a son in Kindergarten in the Buffalo Public Schools. I am very unhappy with common core and no amount of tweaking will change that. When I was in Kindergarten in the 1980's, most of my day was spent playing. That's how young children learn- through play. This is well researched and documented. I did not learn how to read until the 1st Grade and I managed to go on to obtain a Master of Public Administration Degree. Now my child is expected to read by the end of the year and write topic sentences. Why are we pushing "academic rigor" on children who cannot tie their own shoes yet? Early childhood educators were not involved in the CCLS design and it shows. Mercedes Schneider found that in both "CCSS work groups, the number of individuals with "ACT" and "College Board" designations outnumbered those with documented classroom teaching experience." That is an abomination. Children and teachers need autonomy in the classroom. Autonomy breeds creativity, problem solving and critical thinking. Please let kids be kids again and let them play. Kids and teachers don't need micromanaging from the government and business community. Dump Common Core now and don't look back. Please trust students, parents, & teachers in the design of their schools.