

My name is Kristen Pearce. I would like to give you my testimonial on the effects of Common Core as I have witnessed them.

First, I am a parent of a “typical” child. She is a great student and I always hear great things about her performance in school. However, her performance at home when doing homework is anything but great. I have a child who easily breaks down in tears because not only is she often unable to understand what she needs to do on her homework, she becomes frustrated because I am unable to help her. Even with things I can help my daughter with, it’s very difficult to help her in a way without giving her the answer. Why? Because it is NOT developmentally appropriate for a young child to be thinking and problem solving at the level that is expected. Notice I didn’t share what grade my daughter is in. That’s because it does not matter. The Common Core curriculum is developmentally inappropriate at EVERY grade level. The struggles I have with my daughter are the same struggles that thousands of parents have across ALL grade levels.

Second, I am also the parent of a “special needs child”. My son, like many special needs children, is very bright and he has the psychological scores to prove it. So, what’s the problem? Again, the developmental inappropriateness. But that’s not all. Common Core does not take into account that children learn differently, at different paces and in different ways. My child is holding his own, but with an appropriate curriculum, he would be excelling. Writing is a big issue for my son and is impacting him in his best subject...math. Why? He knows how to do math in his head. He can see 8×2 and knows the answer is 16. He has meltdowns because he isn’t allowed to just write “16” but has to draw pictures, circles, lines, whatever to show how he got his answer. Here’s the thing...he has the thinking skills to figure it out, but he struggles with getting his thoughts onto paper....because of his disabilities, NOT because he hasn’t practiced enough. This doesn’t happen just in math, but all subjects and Common Core doesn’t care about that.

Lastly, I am an Early Childhood Education Professional. We don’t hear about the effects of Common Core on Early Childhood Education much, which is why I’m

bringing it to your attention. It KILLS me to see the effects of Common Core in my own center as well as centers all over the state.

Let me back up a bit to demonstrate the problem. Common Core says that all these developmentally inappropriate things need to happen in school starting in Kindergarten. The government and media have played a huge role in convincing parents just how important this supposedly is. Now parents are worried, will my kid be ready for kindergarten? They think, I need to find a program where my kids will get ready for kindergarten. This means I need to find a preschool that's going to teach my kids to read and write. This means I need to find a program that are teaching my toddler to identify letters and numbers.

You make think I'm off based by that, but I challenge you to go to Google and search random programs. Look and see what their curriculum consists of. The programs are catering to what the parents want because if they won't they will go somewhere else.

In MY program, I let the parents go somewhere else. My toddlers will NOT sit at circle and look at flashcards of letters. My preschoolers will NOT practice site words that are needed for Kindergarten. You will NEVER see a worksheet in ANY of my classrooms. Why? Because it is NOT DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE. Just like it's not developmentally appropriate to read and write in Kindergarten. No, in Kindergarten they should be playing and still developing their social skills.

Our 2, 3 and 4 year olds are NOT little Kindergartners, just like Kindergartners are not little first graders. Our kids will be developmentally ready for kindergarten. They will be able to sit and attend to a teacher for up to 15 minutes, they will be able to read and write their name, they will be able to read environmental print, they will be able to follow directions and MOST importantly be able to socially interact with peers.