

Kenneth Sider, Teacher

"The CCLS are an affront to early childhood education. They were created by people who are neither teachers, nor early childhood experts. This is shameful. Worse is the deception enacted to mask this fact. The K-3 standards have already forced a serious change to classroom culture resulting in the sacrifice of play, hands-on learning, and problem-solving in favor of instructional practices that demand long periods of direct instruction in math and ELA. The K-3 standards are pressuring teachers to increase the number of assessments a/k/a tests, which have already increased the emphasis on skill and drill practices. Those of us who understand early childhood education know how young children learn, and understand how important it is to have rich, interdisciplinary activities that engage young children through the freedom to be actively curious as they learn.

Classrooms that adopt the philosophy espoused through CCLS are places that reduce learning to passive activities with excessive control of children's bodies, imagination, and capacity for curiosity. Implementation of the CCLS is already causing distress among young children."