

Diane Levin



Diane Levin, well known for her work in Early Childhood Education throughout the US and around the world has been part of CEASE, now P.E.A.C.E., since the early days. Diane is a Professor of Early Childhood Education at Wheelock College, and author or co-author of nine books including, most recently, [Beyond Remote-Controlled Childhood](#). She spoke to me about her earliest days getting to know CEASE founder, Peggy Schirmer, and the organization, CEASE. “I was upset about the increased production of war toys and working with Nancy Carlsson-Paige on [The War Play Dilemma](#). This was probably 1984 or 1985. Peggy and CEASE organized a demonstration in downtown Boston about war toys. Nancy was there along with health advocate

and leader, Deborah Prothrow-Stith, and others. Its timing, around Christmas, focused attention on the buying season for toys. This launched a movement which included war toy turn-ins at toy stores and action to raise awareness against toy guns.

When we finished [The War Play Dilemma](#) Nancy and I were talking about the many negative effects for children of the deregulation of the toy industry and children’s TV. Peggy had us speaking at CEASE workshops at NAEYC Conferences. Meeting Susan Hopkins, Sunny Wallick and Chris Lamm from California led to our speaking at their colleges. The activism spanned the continent!”

Craig Simpson, Somerville MA

A postscript to Diane’s memories: The activism she describes in the 80s grew into T.R.U.C.E. (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children’s Entertainment) in the 90s. T.R.U.C.E. has celebrated its 20th birthday and grown into a national movement to support parents and teachers resist-

ing the evermore seductive power of screens in children’s lives. Their creative resources for adults and children offer toys and activities to encourage lives beyond screens. All T.R.U.C.E. materials can be downloaded from their website: www.truceteachers.org

