

# Early Childhood Impact At-A-Glance



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Enhancing quality early education is a top priority for Nebraska's Early Childhood Team.

Issues with access to quality early care and education impact children's optimal development and create challenges for the workforce to thrive. Lack of quality early care and education negatively impacts children's development and creates challenges for the workforce. We are excited to partner with the Communities for Kids (C4K) initiative to address this critical issue. C4K identifies local communities' assets and needs to development more high-quality care and education programs. Through the C4K initiative, communities can engage in conversations and take action using local tools, resources, and expertise. These actions support the creation and implementation of solutions to support communities in addressing the childcare shortage.

*"Communities for Kids supports over 60 communities to increase childcare capacity and quality. A strong partnership with UNL Extension's incredible team has resulted in a greater support system."*

*Marti Beard*

**9,027**

early childhood professionals were reached through programming.

**114,605**

children were indirectly impacted.

**75%**

of participants intend to use the information from our professional learnings.



**STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR  
COMMUNITIES**

**ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING  
OF ALL NEBRASKANS**

# Early Childhood



**Enhance the Health & Wellbeing of All Nebraskans** There is no greater responsibility or reward than supporting the development of young children and promoting family wellbeing. Nebraska Extension leverages well-designed University research and resources to enhance high-quality learning experiences for children, families, and professionals. Fostering partnerships with state, national and global child-focused organizations, Nebraska Extension enriches the field of early childcare and education - helping children and families thrive.

## Early Childhood Highlights 2023

- Extension collaborated with multi-agencies to host 7 childcare conferences across the state. 2,320 Professional Development hours were awarded.
- Over 20 early childhood programs across the state have worked with Extension's ECHO program, saving each individual program tens of thousands of dollars as compared to installing a traditional playground,
- Go NAPSACC served 61 childcare facilities to improve the quality and education by helping childcare facilities improve best practices within the areas of infant feeding, child nutrition and physical activity. This work impacted over 3,500 children.
- Co-Parenting for Successful Kids (CPSK) is an educational parenting program offered for families seeking custody modifications and/or divorce. This year, 1947 participants completed the class. 40% of participants reported increased in knowledge with how to create a child-focused parenting plan and 88% indicated they will definitely use the information presented in the program.

# N EXTENSION



The Good Life in Early Life is a new podcast developed by the Nebraska Extension Early Childhood team that launched in September of 2023. We have already reached international audiences with listeners in Germany and Turkey. 11 episodes have been released with a total of 548 plays. Help grow our audience further and use the QR code to listen now.



**In 2023, our team members were involved in and led federally funded projects to study best practices in early childhood.**



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