

Early Childhood 2024 Impact At-A-Glance



child.unl.edu

The Early Childhood team provides affordable, research-based programs and resources to empower adults who care for young children.



Access to professional development is a critical issue for early childhood professionals, particularly those in rural communities. Nebraska Extension's Early Childhood team members partnered with local organizations to host seven *uniquely local* conferences, providing an opportunity for both professional development and connection with peers. These conferences reached **511 attendees**, with **2,870 training hours awarded** (twelve hours are needed annually to maintain licensure). Home-based providers often note that local conferences are the only opportunity they have to connect with others in their profession, making these experiences critically important. One participant noted, **"I feel like I can connect with my peers, director, and children more because of this conference."**

"This program has me heading into next week feeling more enthusiastic and in control."

-Norfolk Early Childhood Conference participant

9,686

Early childhood professionals were reached through programming.

47,015

Children were indirectly impacted.

93%

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

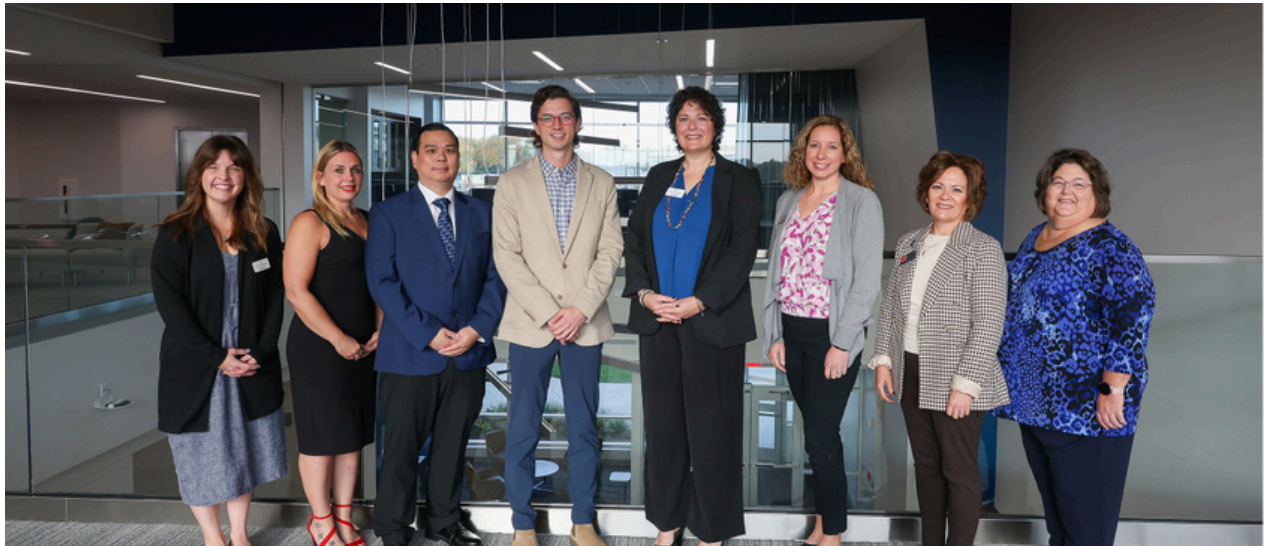


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Early Childhood



The Early Childhood team is collaborating with University of Nebraska-Kearney and Communities for Kids on the **Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Education Workforce (KNEW)** project. The goal of KNEW is to increase recruitment and retention of early childhood educators in Nebraska, particularly in rural communities.

The team was awarded **\$2 million in support from the U.S. Department of Education**. Fifteen communities—including businesses, nonprofit organizations, early childhood educators, and other stakeholders—are being invited to participate to create a statewide network. The Early Childhood team will play a critical role in program implementation and community outreach.

“It is going to be a game-changer for early childhood education, not just in our rural communities, but truly across the state.”

-Senator Deb Fischer

The Good Life in Early Life podcast was awarded 1st Place National Winner in Communications Radio or Podcast from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.



The podcast was listened to in **22 states and 9 countries**.

