



SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

# EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION

## NEWSLETTER

Serving ESUs 4, 5, 6 & 18 including the counties of:  
Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee,  
Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York.

MAY 2022

**FIND EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING SESSIONS**  
ACROSS NEBRASKA:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Southeast Early Learning Connection (ELC) is supported by a grant from federal CCCDF  
administered by the Nebraska Department of Education



The Southeast Early Learning Connection region provides and supports training in early childhood to build an effective, coordinated system for preparing, supporting and recognizing the early childhood care and education workforce in order to provide high quality programs for young children and their families.

As required by Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Department of Health and Human Services, the Southeast Early Learning Connection region collaborates with partners to build the capacity to plan, coordinate and deliver training and other professional development opportunities for all who work with young children, including children identified with disabilities.

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 93.575 Child Care and Development Block Grant from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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SOUTHEAST PARTNERSHIP

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**CARA SMALL**

**Southeast Region Early Learning Coordinator**

Phone: 402-761-3341

Email: [cara.small@esu6.org](mailto:cara.small@esu6.org)

# EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES

Sponsored by Southeast Early Learning Connection

TOPIC	ZOOM	IN-PERSON
LANGUAGE / LITERACY	June 13 & 15 6 - 9pm	N/A
CREATIVE ARTS	N/A	N/A
SCIENCE	N/A	N/A
MATH	July 12 & 19 6 - 9pm	N/A
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	N/A	N/A
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL	August 8 & 15 6 - 9pm	N/A
HEALTH & PHYSICAL	N/A	N/A

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Cost per class: \$30.00**

**A link will be emailed out to you prior to each Zoom training.**

Please register and make payment online at [www.esu6.org](http://www.esu6.org).

Registration deadline is one week prior to the date of the workshop. No refunds after the workshop deadline.

Are you participating in Step Up to Quality? If so, information can be found on page 4 about receiving ELG's at a discounted rate.



## EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES TRAINING

Step Up to Quality & the Early Learning Connection Southeast Partnership have teamed up to bring \$15 Early Learning Guidelines training modules to anyone working in a participating Step Up to Quality program.

Register at [esu6.org](https://esu6.org) under the Events tab.

### STEP UP TO QUALITY DISCOUNT

We are excited to share a new opportunity in our region for all licensed early childcare programs! In an effort to support early childhood professionals, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is partnering with our region to reimburse a portion of registration costs. Those enrolled in Step Up to Quality will be eligible for a partial reimbursement for ELG trainings. Please click on the following link to access the reimbursement form.

#### REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Procedure:

1. Register for ESU 6 ELG training(s) and submit payment via check or PayPal on ESU 6 registration system
2. Attend the ESU 6 ELG training
3. Registrant submits the reimbursement form (completed) to the address or email address found on the form to request reimbursement
4. ESU 6 will verify the payment was made, the participant attended and the participant is a member of the Step Up to Quality program
5. ESU 6 will reimburse a portion of the fee based on the original payment (to registrant or employer)

**\*\*Attendance for an ELG training outside of the Southeast ELC Region is not eligible for reimbursement through ESU 6.**

It is not too late to apply for SUTQ. Once you are registered in the system, you are considered eligible. Here is the link to apply for SUTQ: <https://www.education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality/get-started/apply-now/>



# SAFE WITH YOU

Sponsored by Southeast Early Learning Connection

TOPIC	ZOOM	IN-PERSON
SAFE SLEEP / PREVENTING ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA	June 8 6 - 8pm	N/A
	August 30 6 - 8pm	
POWER TO PROTECT	June 6 6 - 8pm	N/A
	August 23 6 - 8pm	
ALL 3 TOPICS	N/A	June 18 9am - 1pm Provider's Network 145 N 46th St, Ste 5 (Lincoln) To register, call 402-464-4335

REGISTER NOW

**Cost per class: \$10.00 / All 3 topics: \$20.00**  
**A link will be emailed out to you prior to each Zoom workshop**

Please register and make payment online at [www.esu6.org](http://www.esu6.org).  
Registration deadline is one week prior to the date of the workshop. No refunds after the workshop deadline.

# ELEVATE22

ELEVATING THE BUSINESS OF  
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

June 4, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST | Register here: <https://bit.ly/3v5x3Yd>

## Taking the Business of Child Care to New Heights

Elevate is an empowering all-day summit designed to elevate the business of child care. Hear from industry experts, learn strategies from business leaders, and engage with other providers in your community all for free!

### Can't make it in person?

Attend virtually from one of our 8 TELEVATE locations! Join via livestream at the TELEVATE site closest to you and enjoy all the attendee perks. Spots are limited!

- Columbus (50 seats)
- Kearney (20 seats)
- LaVista (50 seats)
- Lincoln (30 seats)
- McCook (35 seats)
- North Platte (35 seats)
- Scottsbluff (50 seats)
- South Sioux City (35 seats)

### What's in it for attendees?

- Exclusive ELEVATE22 swag bag
- 6 in-service hours
- Breakfast and lunch provided
- Early bird registration entry into prize raffle
- Post-event access to online resources

### Session Speakers

**Albert Wat, M.A.,**  
Senior Policy Director at Alliance for Early Success

**Dana Dyksterhuis,**  
Co-Founder of HERE: Here for You, For Them

**Anne-Marie Sullivan,**  
HERE: Here for You, For Them

**Molly Sullivan,**  
Director of National Initiatives at First Children's Finance

**Brandee Lengel,**  
VP of Quality Child Care Partnerships, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

**Geeta Surti,**  
Product Marketing & Research Specialist at Pie for Providers

**Tracey Lynn Pearson,**  
LMSW, LIMHP and Life Coach/Psychotherapist

## Keynote Speakers

**Chris Bennett**  
Co-Founder & CEO,  
Wonderschool



**Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D.,**  
Research Professor, Department of Public Policy  
Fellow, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG)  
Founding Director, Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG (the Coalition)







Resources and Skills to Succeed as a Center Based Child Care Administrator

Completing this training fulfills the DHHS licensing requirement 391 NAC Regulation 3 006.08B Child Care Management Training

**Participants must attend ALL 8 modules to meet licensing requirements.**

**MTP 2022-2023**

ESU 6  
210 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milford, NE

Date	Title	Time
Sept. 29	Mod 1 Business of Childcare (in-person)	9:00-3:30
Oct. 13	Mod 2 Child Development and Learning (in-person)	9:00-3:30
Oct. 27	Mod 3 Policies and Procedures (in-person)	9:00-3:30
Nov. 17	Mod 4 Supporting Children Center Wide (in-person)	9:00-3:30
Dec. 8	Mod 5 Effective Workforce (Zoom)	9:00-3:30
Jan. 5	Mod 6 Inside of the Building (Zoom)	9:00-3:30
Jan. 19	Mod 7 Relationships in Child Care (Zoom)	9:00-3:30
Feb. 9	Mod 8 Transitions (in-person)	9:00-12:00

To Register for the MTP, please go to [www.esu6.org](http://www.esu6.org) Under "Events"

The cost for this entire series is \$195.

For more information, please contact Cara Small at [cara.small@esu6.org](mailto:cara.small@esu6.org) or 402-761-3341.

Registration deadline is Sept. 15, 2022.

**REGISTER NOW**





# Teachstone®

## THINKING & THRIVING

### INTERACTIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING

This training empowers teachers and caregivers to use small, yet meaningful interactions to support the cognitive and language needs of infants and toddlers.

## This training is designed to:

- Strengthen teachers' understanding of cognitive and language development in infants and toddlers
- Help teachers plan for meaningful interactions in their everyday routines
- Build teachers' ability to individualize supports for all children in their care
- Give teachers practical strategies to use to support children's cognitive and language development

## Register!

 **June 25, 2022**

 Virtual

 4 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120010](https://necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120010)

 **July 15, 2022**


 Virtual

 4 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120011](https://necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120011)

 **September 14, 2022**

 Virtual

 4 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120012](https://necprs.ne.gov//training-public?eventID=120012)



**Sponsored by**





## TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPPORT

### INTERACTIONS AT THE HEART OF HEALING

This training provides instruction and hands-on tools to equip early childhood professionals to connect with students who have experienced trauma.



**Learn from experts in trauma-informed care how to have powerful interactions that support children, families and peers in times of trauma.**


## Register!

**FREE**



 **June 28, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120013](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120013)

 **August 19, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120014](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120014)

 **September 10, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120015](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120015)

**Sponsored by**





# Healthy Routines Training

This training will focus on how to incorporate daily practices and routines to keep children and staff healthy in Early Childhood settings.



## Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Central Time

Thursday, June 2, 2022 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Central Time

Friday, September 9, 2022 - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Central Time

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Central Time

Updated: 2/17/2022



Attendees will earn 2 in-service clock hours



Learn more & register at [necprs.ne.gov/training-public](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public)





## Instructional Support Essentials for Teachers

This training builds knowledge of Instructional Support indicators and dimensions—and shows your teachers why they matter. Whether you're new to CLASS or need a boost in this challenging domain, you'll gain the knowledge and lens you need to strengthen Instructional Support interactions in your classroom.

## Why Attend?

By attending this training, teachers will:

- Build a lens to identify effective Instructional Support interactions
- Use CLASS language to describe effective Instructional Support interactions and explain why these interactions are important to children's development
- Watch authentic classroom videos illustrating effective interactions
- Apply this lens to their own practice in order to identify opportunities to demonstrate effective Instructional Support practices

## Register!

 **June 17, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=119983](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=119983)

 **July 16, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120005](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120005)

 **September 16, 2022**

 Virtual

 6 Hours

 [necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120006](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public?eventID=120006)



**Sponsored by**





# Environment Rating Scale Training

The Environment Rating Scales (ERS) are observation tools that assess the quality of interactions between adults and children, including classroom schedules, materials and spaces available and accessible to children. The use of ERS is a widely accepted method of evaluating and improving the quality of home and center-based programs. The Infant/Toddler and the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales are used in center/school based settings while the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale is used in family childcare homes.

## Upcoming Training

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALES (ITERS-3 & ECERS-3)**

June 13, 2022 | ESU 3, LaVista

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE FAMILY CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALES (FCCERS-3)**

June 29 & 30, 2022, must attend both dates | Virtual

### **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INFANT/TODDLER ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE (ITERS-3)**

June 20, 2022 | Virtual

### **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE (ECERS-3)**

July 13, 2022 | Virtual

### **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FAMILY CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE (FCCERS-3)**

July 23, 2022 | Virtual



Earn in-service clock hours!



Learn more & register at [necprs.ne.gov/training-public](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public)





Classroom Assessment Scoring System, also known as **CLASS**, is an observation tool that measures the effectiveness of classroom interactions among teachers and children, including emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support. The daily interactions promote children's social and cognitive development.

## Upcoming Training

### INTRODUCTION TO CLASS™ TRAINING

Infant -

October 1, 2022 | Kearney

Toddler -

August 27, 2022 | Virtual

October 1, 2022 | Kearney

PreK -

June 2, 2022 | Virtual

October 1, 2022 | Kearney

December 2, 2022 | Virtual

### CLASS™ OBSERVATION (RELIABILITY) TRAINING

Infant -

June 9 & 10, 2022 | Virtual

October 20 & 21, 2022 | Virtual

Toddler -

November 3 & 4, 2022 | Virtual

PreK

July 14 & 15, 2022 | Virtual

November 17 & 18, 2022 | Virtual

Updated 04/26/2022



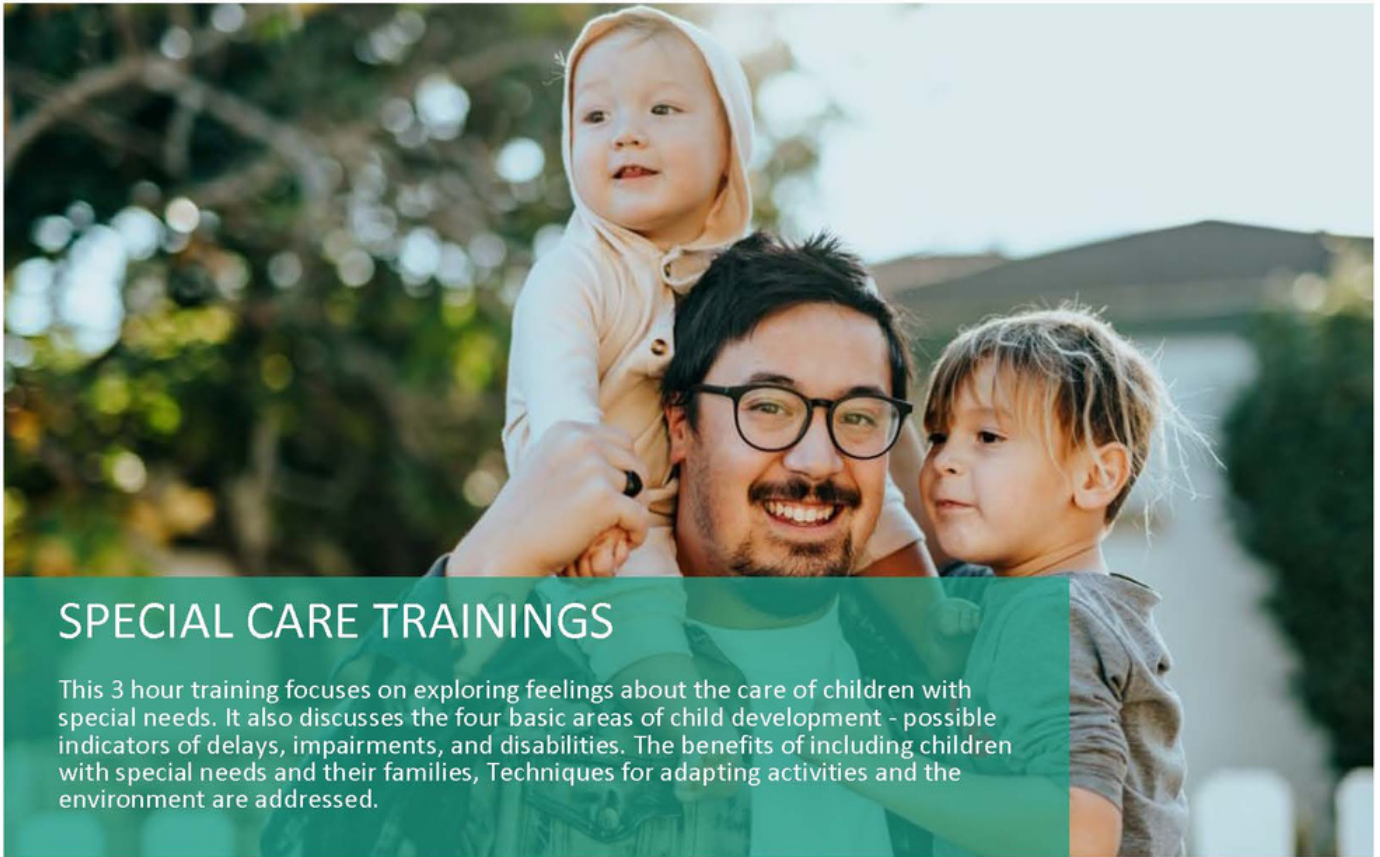
Attendees will earn 4 hours for intros & 15 hours for reliability training.



Learn more & register at [necprs.ne.gov/training-public](https://necprs.ne.gov/training-public)







## SPECIAL CARE TRAININGS

This 3 hour training focuses on exploring feelings about the care of children with special needs. It also discusses the four basic areas of child development - possible indicators of delays, impairments, and disabilities. The benefits of including children with special needs and their families, Techniques for adapting activities and the environment are addressed.

## TRAINING DATES

April 9, 2022  
9am-12pm CT

May 12, 2022  
6pm-9pm CT

June 4, 2022  
9am-12pm CT

July 19, 2022  
6pm-9pm CT

August 20, 2022  
9am-12pm CT

September 22, 2022  
6pm-9pm CT

October 8, 2022  
9am-12pm CT

November 10, 2022  
6-9pm CT

January 7, 2023  
9am-12pm CT

February 7, 2023  
6pm-9pm CT

## REGISTER on the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System Website

<https://necprs.ne.gov/user/training/list>

**TRAINERS:** Susan Borchert and Janice Lee

Participants will receive the training materials prior to the training

The training is offered virtually

**Registration Fee- \$15.00**

*This training is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education with funding from Part C Federal Grant Award# H181A170033.*



# Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA



## What is Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA (WAGES)?

Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA is a program that provides education-based salary supplements (sometimes called incentives) to low-paid early care and education providers working with children, ages birth to five, in licensed family child care settings in Nebraska. This program is designed to increase retention, education, and compensation of the early childhood workforce.

### 2020 Family Child Care Pilot

#### WAGES Quick Facts

- 1) **Why is this program only for Family Child Care Providers?** The first year (2020) for WAGES in Nebraska is a pilot year. The decision was made to start the program small and build upon it. The plan is for WAGES to be offered to all early childhood educators working in classrooms with children, ages birth to five, in the future. As additional funding is secured, additional eligible applicants will be notified. Keep checking back!
- 2) **How do I know if I am eligible? How can I apply?** All eligibility requirements can be found on the reverse side of this page or can be found at [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org). To apply: (1) Complete an application, (2) Accept child care subsidy (Title XX), have a child enrolled receiving child care subsidy, AND/OR be listed as, "Currently do not accept subsidy, but willing to in the future", on the DHHS child care licensing roster, and (3) provide official college transcripts for your education earned. Applications can be found at [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) or contact a WAGES counselor (402-858-5143 or [wages@nebraskaaeyc.org](mailto:wages@nebraskaaeyc.org)) for more information, or to have an application mailed to you.
- 3) **How much will I receive?** Salary supplement amounts are tied to the recipient's level of education. Awards are issued in two six-month payments.
- 4) **How can I increase the level of the supplement I receive?** WAGES participants can increase their supplement amounts by gaining more education. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA offers scholarships to child care professionals who want to earn course credits toward specific early childhood credentials or degrees. Contact T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA (402-858-5143 or [teach@nebraskaaeyc.org](mailto:teach@nebraskaaeyc.org)) for more information.
- 5) **Do I have to pay taxes on the supplement I receive?** Yes, because the salary supplement is income. Participants will receive an IRS-1099 form in January, if they received \$600 or more from Nebraska AEYC during the previous calendar year. Recipients are responsible for reporting and paying personal income taxes due.
- 6) **Will I receive a supplement if I move to another early care and education program?** Checks are sent to participants after each six-month period in the same program. If a participant moves to another eligible program within the six months, no check will be sent to the participant until they have worked six qualifying months and completed a new WAGES application from the new site. This will encourage more stability for the children in care and discourage participants from moving programs.
- 7) **Can someone participate in T.E.A.C.H. and WAGES?** Yes! The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Scholarship Program and the Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA program go hand-in-hand. T.E.A.C.H. is a means to support individuals as they work their way up the WAGES scale and increase their education. Participants in both programs can receive bonuses from T.E.A.C.H. and incentives from WAGES simultaneously.

#### WAGES impacts early childhood education programs and educators by...

Recognizing and rewarding dedicated professionals

Stabilizing the early childhood workforce

Encouraging continued education

*Limited funds are available for this pilot. Apply today!!*

*More information and applications to apply for a WAGES incentive can be found at:*

**[www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) or call (402) 858-5143, or email: [wages@nebraskaaeyc.org](mailto:wages@nebraskaaeyc.org)**

Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association. Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA is administered by Nebraska AEYC and the 2020 Pilot is funded by the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative and the Nebraska Department of Education- Office of Early Childhood.



# neaeyc Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

## I am WAGE\$<sup>®</sup>

### Denita Julius

Denita has been in the business of caregiving since she was sixteen years old and became a C.N.A. When her daughter was born, she went from working in nursing homes to private care, and in 2004, decided to switch from the field of caregiving to child care.



*"We have worked hard for recognition and understanding for what we do, and we put a lot of time and effort in expanding. An incentive like WAGE\$ was like the cherry on top to what I was already doing."*

**-Denita Julius**

Denita said, "When I started my in-home program, I did not realize all that was entailed with early childhood. I thought of myself as a person who got to stay home and watch kids and provide them with activities while providing them with a safe and nurturing environment." It didn't take long before she was attending trainings, and striving to continually improve and provide the best quality of care she could. In the summer of 2013, she began to work toward achieving her Associates Degree. She graduated in 2016 with an Associates in Human Services. She wanted to keep working toward her Bachelor's Degree, but with the cost and credit hours needed in other child care programs, she decided to wait.

Looking at today, though, she is working on six of her final eighteen credits toward her Bachelor's Degree, received her C.D.A. in August of 2018, is enrolled in Step Up to Quality where she has been a Step Five since 2019, and is a part of Sixpence Sprouting Success. Denita says, "I have had the pleasure of working with multiple organizations that view ECE as one of the most important foundations of development just as I do. I take these classes and improve myself for myself, and my children, but the day I got the letter in the mail about WAGE\$, it was definitely like a pat on the back and a thank you for what many of us are doing in this field."

**Child Care  
WAGE\$<sup>®</sup>**   
**NEBRASKA**

[www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)

# EXPLORE *The Forest*

## TAKE YOUR STUDENTS ON A WALK IN THE WOODS



### *Explore and Play*

Join your Nebraska Forest Service at the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve to immerse your students in native ecosystems. Spend 120 minutes on a guided exploration of Nebraska's forests and prairies.



### *Learn and Grow*

We will focus the learning around our forests and trees. Get hands-on and up-close with the outdoors! All of our field trips include a trip to the "Nature Ninja Course."



### *Field Trip Details*

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.  
April-August 2022 at 9 AM CST.

Address: 3100 North 112th Street, Lincoln.  
Duration: Approximately 2 hours.  
Cost: \$5 per student, adult, or guardian.  
One adult chaperone required per 8 students.



Register online today at  
[go.unl.edu/forestfieldtrips](https://go.unl.edu/forestfieldtrips)



402-472-9727



[jack.hilgert@unl.edu](mailto:jack.hilgert@unl.edu)





# The CHIME Program

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WORKING WITH PRESCHOOL  
CHILDREN

Offered online at no cost to participants (savings of \$185). Participants have the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of the CHIME program and may receive up to \$300 in incentives for participation.

The CHIME Program provides education and guidance on how to incorporate mindfulness and reflection into your daily routine, teaching and caregiving. Engaging in mindfulness and reflective practice has many benefits for health and well-being, including reduced stress, improved emotion management, increased focus and attention, and enhanced relationships.

Please contact Katie Krause at [chime@unl.edu](mailto:chime@unl.edu) with any questions and to find a class time that meets your needs.

The CHIME Program is supported by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



**Now Recruiting!**

**8-weeks**  
**offered online**  
**once-a-week**

**Up to 16**  
**in-service hours**

**FREE!**

**Up to \$300**  
**in incentives**

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## Nature Explore | The Outdoor Classroom Project LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

### SAVE THE DATE!

Leadership Institute National Conference  
July 24-27, 2022 NE City  
Lied Lodge and Conference Center

Enjoy a great mix of hands-on sessions, discussion groups, nature-based experiences and inspiring social times. Discover new ways to keep your work fresh and growing! Gain engaging new ideas for renewing yourself in mind, body and spirit through nature connections. Learn inspiring, yet practical ideas for sustaining our world. Join with our growing network and treat yourself to a time of rest, reflection and rejuvenation that will reinvigorate you for your professional journey.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



## Attn: Child Care Center Directors Sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. Student Today!

### 5 Quick T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Scholarship Program Facts

- ☐ T.E.A.C.H. pays the majority of costs.
- ☐ A quality program counts on quality teachers with formal education!
- ☐ T.E.A.C.H. has a positive impact on **reducing staff turnover**.
- ☐ Sponsorship makes good business sense when you calculate the cost of turnover.
- ☐ Parents can come to understand and appreciate the quality of your program.

[DOWNLOAD POSTER](#)



# IT IS A WIN-WIN SITUATION



*97% of sponsoring  
programs would  
recommend T.E.A.C.H.  
to other programs.*

*2021 Survey*

To learn more about this opportunity please contact:  
Julie Warford - T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Scholarship Counselor  
650 J Street, Suite 23 ♥ Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-858-5143  
Email: [teach@nebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:teach@nebraskaAEYC.org) ♥ Website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)



# Caring Spaces Training

Tier 1 will outline the Caring Spaces infant/toddler training series and will review the tier one approach (of three) to high quality care. The importance of allowing the freedom of movement to explore the environment and develop self-help skills will be discussed.

Note: It is not required to take all three tiers (both dates), however, it is recommended. An inservice certificate will be given at the end of each training date.

Via Zoom

Tier 1  
June 1st, 6 – 8pm

Tiers 2 & 3  
August 2, 6 – 8pm

To register:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Family Engagement Conference

Coming October 22, 2022—Save the Date!



Conference for Families and Parents of Young Children:  
Collaboration, Learning, Support, and Leadership





## The Child Care Referral Network has new features

Check it out at [www.nechildcarereferral.org](http://www.nechildcarereferral.org) today!



### Add information for prospective parents including:

- If your child care is wheelchair accessible
- If you are able to care for children with special dietary needs
- If you provide transportation

### Set up text and email reminders to update your profile

- Sign into your profile on the CCRN website and click the yellow banner at the top
- Set up if you want reminders by text, email, or both
- Select how often you want to receive reminders
- When you get a reminder, click the link in the email/text and update your profile without signing in

## Do you work with school-age children?

Check out our online School Age Connections training!



This training focuses on the development and implementation of school-age programming for before and after school, during non-school days and summer vacation.

- **3 modules worth 5 in-service hours each**
- **\$5 per module**
- **Online payment available!**

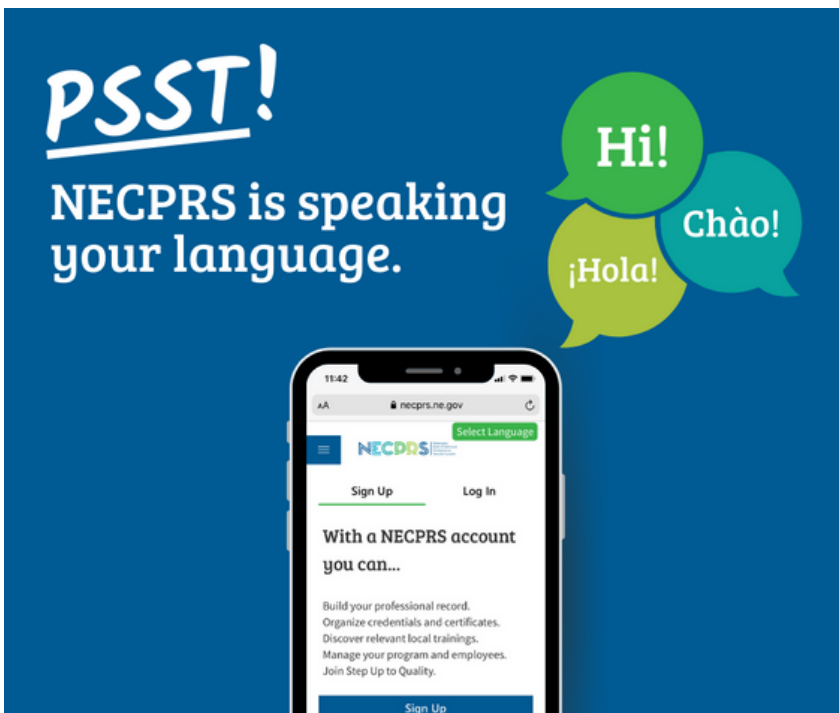
Learn more & register at:  
[bit.ly/SACconnections](http://bit.ly/SACconnections)



## Save the Date



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Great news —  
NECPRS.ne.gov is now  
available in 14 languages!  
Use the language switcher in  
the upper right-hand corner  
to switch the language that  
displays on the site.





## NEBRASKA'S CDA PATHWAYS

There are multiple pathways to earning your Child Development Associate (CDA) in Nebraska!



### LEARN MORE ABOUT...



NDE authorized organizations that have gone through the CDA council alignment process



Colleges that offer a CDA pathway



Resources that will help you on your path to obtaining a CDA credential

VISIT: [EDUCATION.NE.GOV/OEC/NEBRASKAS-CDA-PATHWAYS](https://education.ne.gov/oec/nebraskas-cda-pathways)

## LEARNING IN THE HEARTLAND

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Bring books to life with virtual field trips and activities.

These short exciting field trips help inspire questions, problem-solving, and observation to help children remember concepts longer.

This program provides all caregivers, preschool teachers, and parents with books, virtual tours, art, and physical activities along with music. We hope you enjoy this website to access high-quality content with curated books and activities for extending children's learning on about community helpers and services. Children will demonstrate an increased familiarity with doctors, police officers, firefighters, veterinarians, and greenhouse managers through developmentally appropriate indicators.



### Fire Drill

BY PAUL DUBOIS JACOBS  
AND JENNIFER SWENDER

Let's explore fire drills and meet a firefighter!

[For more information, click here](#)

## Ready for Success

This booklet is in response to commonly asked questions from parents about preparing for, and entering kindergarten.

Some questions parents ask are about district policy. Nebraska has over 200 individual school districts, each having their own board, superintendent, and policies. The Nebraska Department of Education provides guidance and assistance to these districts. Understanding what is state law (such as the entrance age) and what is district policy (such as the early entry assessment procedure) can be complicated. Parents are encouraged to talk with school teachers and administrators for specific guidance.



[DOWNLOAD  
BOOKLET HERE](#)

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## Nebraska's Core Competencies for Early Childhood

This course will guide you through the Core Competencies document and explain how you can use it for professional growth. This course is meant to be an introduction to the document. The optional self-assessment provided in the course will help you further understand the Nebraska Core Competencies and how best to use them as an early childhood professional.

This is a free online course that can be completed independently through the Canvas Learning Management System. Once the course is successfully completed, a certificate for 1 hour of training will be made available.

[ENROLL IN THIS  
COURSE](#)



# ONLINE TRAINING APPROVED FOR IN-SERVICE HOURS

Explorations Early Learning: [www.explorationsearlylearning.com](http://www.explorationsearlylearning.com)

This organization has three main categories of trainings that participants can choose from with several sessions under the categories that are worth between 1 to 4 clock hours of in-service.

- Play and Early Learning Sessions (9 Training Sessions Available)
- Self-Care and Relationships Sessions (6 Training Sessions Available)
- Do It Yourself Sessions (4 Training Sessions Available)

Successful Solutions Training: <https://www.cdastars.com/> (Please click on Nebraska PD Offerings. They offer trainings in Spanish.)

Successful Solutions Training offers hundreds of individual courses. Participants can complete the trainings online at their own pace anywhere. Their team of online early childhood instructors work collaboratively to develop online courses that are focused on practical, comprehensive topics and issues that deliver high quality online professional development to increase an early childhood educator's knowledge and skills.

WIDA Early Years: Supporting Dual Language Learners (These modules are really centered on best practice and are applicable to all not just those working with DLL). <https://www.education.ne.gov/oec/online-training-opportunities/> (scroll to the bottom of the page)

Cox Campus: <https://www.coxcampus.org>

All of these online resources are approved meaning the certificate of completion is accepted by DHHS Licensing.



Nebraska Extension offers online professional development lessons covering a range of early childhood education topics. Each topic area will provide research-based information and strategies on how you can support young children's early growth and development.

[Professional Development In-services Online | Early Childhood Development \(unl.edu\)](http://unl.edu)

A promotional banner for the Nebraska Young Child Institute. On the left is a photograph of a smiling baby with their hands on their head. The background is a solid green color. To the right of the baby, the word 'NEBRASKA' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, '— Young Child Institute —' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of this text, the event details are listed in white, sans-serif capital letters: 'JUNE 28-29, 2022', 'YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER', and '416 TALMADGE ST. — KEARNEY, NE'. At the bottom right, there is a gold-colored button with the text 'REGISTER HERE' in white, sans-serif capital letters.

# Celebrating 70+ Years in Child Care

Submitted by Angie Lewis, Child Care Inspection Specialist

What inspires someone to become a child care provider and to reach a lifetime milestone in this rewarding chosen career? There are several providers who have met that milestone and are stepping into retirement from communities in Southeast Nebraska.

Some of these include Doris Martin, Nancy Seelhoff, Carolyn Sell, and Sharon Wander.

**Doris Martin** of NE City started caring for children at the tender age of 12 years, often caring for the children in her own home. Now 70 years later, she is still caring for children with her daughter. Doris said she has always loved children and the simple rewards of them hugging her and watching the children flourish to adulthood. As you can guess, she has raised generations of families.

**Nancy Seelhoff** of Syracuse actually began her chosen field through the traditional path of attending college. The degree she earned in Human Development and the Family, as well as additional training, has served her well for the many years she has been caring for children while raising her own. Now Nancy enjoys many weddings and graduations of children who have been in her care. This career has been a positive influence for Nancy, and on her own family, and her children loved having her home. "If you love children like I do, it's been a great experience."

**Carolyn Sell** of Beatrice began caring for children when her own children arrived and the flexible schedule allowed her the opportunity to enjoy her own children's activities. Recognizing that children are our future is what carries her through the challenges. Carolyn has cared for generations of families, and feels the reward is being a part of the children's lives and having continued contact with their parents. Besides her child care business, Carolyn also taught the 1st grade Sunday School class for 26 years.

**Sharon Wander** of Syracuse began caring for children when her firstborn was just three months old and has been steadily caring for other children since. The most rewarding aspect is watching those children grow and change during their time with her. She continues to have relationships into adulthood with the children and their families. "Recognizing a child's accomplishments truly builds their self-esteem. I have really enjoyed the rewarding experience of being a teacher."



Nancy Seelhoff



Sharon Wander



Doris Martin



Carolyn Sell




[ssic.org](http://ssic.org)

### The Need

1 in 4 children in the United States struggle with more than one traumatic event. Unaddressed, these experiences can lead to poor performance in school, serious health-related problems, and developmental delays.

### What is SSIC?

To address these issues, Sesame Street in Communities is working to support and collaborate with local community efforts across the country by sharing **free tools** and resources with providers, offering **professional development**, and building relationships with partners on the ground to create **Sesame Action Plans**.

### Our Goal

Together, with our partners on the ground, we are striving to reach

- 4.5 million children (0-6) + families
- 11,000 direct service providers
- 200 national and local partnerships
- 35 new locations

### Our Work

We are working with our partners to purposefully embed the Sesame Street in Communities tools and resources as complementary elements into programs in sustainable and meaningful ways.



### We're focusing on...



Healthy Bodies,  
Healthy Minds



ABC's & 123's



Difficult Times  
& Tough Talks

[netNebraska.org/kids](http://netNebraska.org/kids)





# Find Training Sessions

ACROSS NEBRASKA:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Southeast Early Learning Connection (ELC) is supported by a grant from federal CCCDF administered by the Nebraska Department of Education