

2009 Annual Report

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.



CHILDREN . . . THE HEART OF THE MATTER

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Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's early childhood community since 1976

Original art provided by children in T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA scholarship recipient classrooms

To the members, friends and supporters of the
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

We are pleased to provide this report and
hope it will be of interest to you.

This past year has been a year of accomplishments and growth, as we added new projects and
continued to provide high quality in all of our programs and services.

We continue to direct our efforts and resources toward strengthening and supporting the early
childhood community. Early childhood is a critical piece of
Nebraska’s infrastructure, and high quality early care and
education is so important for Nebraska’s children, families,
communities, and the state.



Steve Wilson, Board President



Linda Zinke, Executive Director

If you have any questions, please contact either:
Steve Wilson, 402-654-3318, swilson@esu2.org
Linda Zinke: 402-476-2089, lzinke@NebraskaAEYC.org

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN AWARD



Carolyn Edwards is a professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She has served on many leadership teams, including Building Bright Futures, Early Childhood Core

Competencies Leadership Team, and the Early Learning Guidelines Review Team. She has numerous books to her credit, including *The Diary of Laura*, and *Hundred Languages of Children*.



Deb Nared is the owner/director of Nared’s Pee Wee Palace, a family run early childhood program strategically located in the heart of the densely populated North Omaha.

Nared enjoys a rich history as a community leader. Nared is also the founder and leader of the North Side Quality Childcare Association, a group of 14 minority-owned child care providers.

NEBRASKA AEYC

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is a state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. It began in 1976 and is organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation which is led by a Board of Directors. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting and promoting the mission of the organization. The membership fee includes membership in the local, state, regional, and national AEYC organizations.

“What its children become, that will the community become.”

Suzanne La Follette

STRUCTURE OF NEBRASKA AEYC

Nebraska AEYC is a state affiliate of National AEYC, the largest early childhood association in the world. NeAEYC is structured as follows:

Two local affiliate chapters:

- Lincoln AEYC: 139 members
- Omaha AEYC: 183 members

Small chapters of the Nebraska AEYC:

- All Nations Chapter of Nebraska AEYC: 8 members
- Columbus Chapter of Nebraska AEYC: 14 members
- Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC: 15 members
- Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC: 20 members
- Sarpy/Cass Chapter of Nebraska AEYC: 13 members
- At-large members are unaffiliated with any chapter: 55 members

PROJECTS

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA
- Quality Enhancement Projects:
 - Woods Charitable Fund (Lincoln)
 - Building Bright Futures (Omaha)
 - Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative (Lincoln)
- Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Community Collaboration Project: Community Services Initiative
- Nature Explore™ Project
- Fiscal Agent: Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank

SERVICES

- Advocacy & Public Awareness
- Annual Report
- Conferences and Conference Support
- Chapter Development and Support
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Staff Support and Training
- State website - www.NebraskaAEYC.org
- Statewide Planning Retreat
- Voice for Early Childhood
- Week of the Young Child Mini-grants

2009 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

The planning retreat was held in June at Mahoney State Park. The retreat was very well attended, with 44 people representing 37 organizations participating.

Four teams, a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA team, an Advocacy/Public Awareness team, a Quality Initiatives team, and a Chapter Development team met and developed goals, including:

- Continue to recruit for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood, targeting underserved markets
- Support increased quality in licensing standards
- Support efforts to develop a professional development registry
- Develop a united plan for the application for ARRA funds
- Continue to support Environment Ratings Scale implementation
- Provide support for centers working toward accreditation
- Help support the development of student leaders

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT FEEDBACK

Overall event:

100% ranked
Excellent or Very Good

Welcome/Introductions:

96% ranked
Excellent or Very Good

Working Teams:

100% ranked
Excellent or Very Good

Participant Quotes

"Great way to network."

"The working team time and report-outs very productive & informative."

"Got a lot accomplished and got thru the whole agenda!"

Best Part of the Day

"Getting ideas from others, feeling empowered."

"Networking with the team was great."

"Being together with so many leaders in Nebraska; very thought-provoking!!"

Week of the Young Child Table Tents

3,000 table tents were distributed across Nebraska to recognize the Week of the Young Child, April 19-26, 2009. This was a partnership with the Regional Training Coalitions.



T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA STATISTICS

Ethnicity

71% Caucasian
 18% African American
 9% Hispanic
 2% Other

Employment Positions

69% Teachers or Teacher Aides
 22% Family Child Care Home Providers
 9% Directors

Employment Locations

49% For profit
 25% Nonprofit
 14% Head Start
 11% Faith based
 1% Public

Compensation

The average salary increase for teachers was **8%**.

Child Care Subsidy

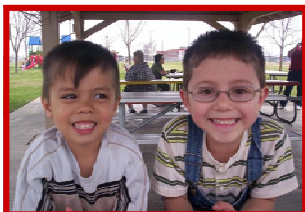
86% of sponsoring facilities accept Child Care Subsidy.

Turnover Rates

The average turnover rate for T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA students is **less than 5%**.

Students Participate in 12-month Contracts

44% 1st contract
 26% 2nd contract
 14% 3rd contract
 8% 4th contract
 6% 5th contract
 1% 6th contract
 1% 7th contract



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

Studies of quality early childhood care and education programs indicate the best quality programs are those where staff are well educated and turnover is low. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is designed to provide scholarship funds for those working with young children. Each scholarship addresses three key issues facing those in the early care and education field:

The education level of staff
 High turnover rates
 Low salaries

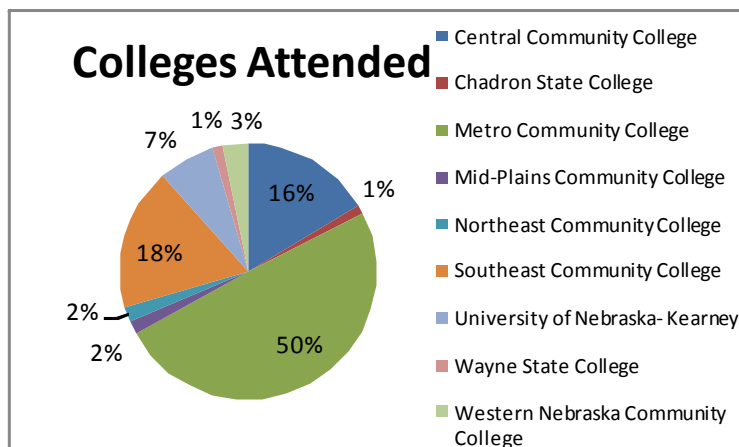
Nebraska became a T.E.A.C.H. state in 2001, and began providing scholarships in 2002. During 2009, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA served **224 students in 46 counties.**

Education

T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA offers scholarships for both Associate's Degrees and Bachelor's Degrees.

To help "bridge the gap" between the AAS degree and the university system, students can participate in a BA GAP Model, which allows them to continue at the community college while earning general education credits necessary to register as a junior.

- 83% of the students are participating in the Associates Degree Model
- 17% of the students are participating in Bachelor Degree Gap or Bachelor Degree Model



T.E.A.C.H. students have earned in 2009:

1,593 semester credits

(For data purposes, quarter credits are converted to semester credits)

Student and Sponsoring Program Feedback

Each year we gather information regarding the effectiveness of T.E.A.C.H. from the scholarship recipients and sponsoring programs. 100% of the sponsoring programs report that they believe their scholarship recipient has increased their early childhood knowledge and improved their teaching practices.

"This is an excellent opportunity for early childhood students and early childhood centers to partner for quality results." - Sponsoring Program Director, Douglas County

"I am looking forward to my new future that lays ahead. I am excited about my program now and I am using what I heard in my class with the kids." - Scholarship Recipient, Family Child Care Provider, Platte County

Student Spotlight

Amy Brown



Amy began participating with T.E.A.C.H. for the Summer 07 term. She attended classes for one year and then took a year off when her son was born. She returned to college, and T.E.A.C.H., for the Summer 09 term, and is currently attending classes. She has completed 27 credits at Metro Community College. Amy is a teacher at Child Savings Institute in Omaha and is currently working with infants and toddlers and will be moving to multi-ages in February. She has worked there since April 2007.

Amy is married and has a 20 month old son named Toryn. In her spare time she enjoys shopping and most of all, spending time with her family.

Amy says:

"T.E.A.C.H. is helping reach my goal of becoming an Early Childhood Special Ed Preschool teacher by helping me with tuition/books. T.E.A.C.H. has given me the opportunity that I otherwise would not be able to afford. I am about half way to my associates degree and plan to continue my education with a bachelors degree."

"I have five brothers and I will be the first in my family to graduate college, including my parents. If it wasn't for the T.E.A.C.H. program I would not be able to make this huge accomplishment to graduate college."

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Self Study

In March 2009, we received the results of our self study portfolio. Highlights include:

- Final score is well above what is needed for 2- year Basic License renewal: Score needed for Basic License: 52, Nebraska score: 70
- 10 out of the 16 competencies scored the highest possible score.
- We received no scores of Not Met.



Introducing the new

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Logo

"The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® name is associated with quality and successful outcomes for children, teachers and communities. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association."

FUNDING FOR T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Health and Human Services System
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Building Bright Futures Foundation
- Lozier Foundation
- Private donations

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

Stacia Tauscher

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA 2002-2009

Data from the beginning of the project:

633 participants

- 425 Teachers/Teacher aides
- 144 Family Child Care Providers
- 64 Directors

55% White/Caucasian
30% Minority
15% No response

86% Accept Child Care Subsidy

Institutions Attended:

- Central CC: 120
- Chadron State: 2
- Little Priest: 1
- Metro CC: 331
- Mid-Plains CC: 12
- NE Indian CC: 4
- Northeast CC: 16
- Southeast CC: 91
- UNK: 23
- UNL: 1
- Wayne State: 3
- Western NE CC: 29
- Total: 633

Combined Total Credits: 11,980.5

76 completed AA/AAS

6 completed BA

Approximate number of children impacted: 13,140

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

ENVIRONMENT RATINGS SCALES

Three NeAEYC staff members are trained to administer the Environment Ratings Scales. Together, they have completed:

- **20 Early Childhood Ratings Scales (ECERS)**
- **16 Infant/Toddler Environment Ratings Scales (ITERS)**
- **31 Family Child Care Environment Ratings Scales (FCCERS)**

Large group training activities provided by staff:
41



ACCREDITATION

of Accredited Centers in Nebraska:

2007:	112
2008:	87
2/20/09:	69
2/15/10	59

47% decrease from 2007

EARLY HEAD START INFANT-TODDLER QUALITY INITIATIVE

The Infant/Toddler Quality Initiative is a program partnering with community providers to enhance professionalism of participants and the quality of care provided to children and families.

The Initiative operating in Lincoln is sub-contracted to the Nebraska AEYC. It partnered with 38 community providers in center and home settings. Information on quality care has been shared through a lending library, 136 mentoring hours and 49 hours of group trainings on 21 topics. Facilities have participated in 16 environmental ratings scales. The group experienced the following percentage increases in scores between their pre-Infant Toddler Environment Ratings Scale and their post-ITERS:

- **Space & Furnishings: 24.2%**
- **Personal Care Routines: 18.9%**
- **Listening & Talking: 93.6%**
- **Activities: 120.9%**
- **Interactions: 31.4%**
- **Program Structure: 40.9%**
- **Parents & Staff: 19.6%**

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES (BBF)

BBF was created in 2006 when a group of business, civic and political leaders came together to assess the status of our young in Douglas & Sarpy Counties and ask whether young people were receiving the support and services they needed. A task force developed goals in 3 broad areas: Ready for Life, Ready for Learning, and Ready for Success.

Nebraska AEYC is partnering with BBF with a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® project as well as a Quality Initiative Project. The Quality Initiative Project supports providers through assessment, coaching, and the provision of supplies and training.

WOODS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

This project was developed to provide support and supplies to a small group of centers providing services to primarily low income children and families in Lincoln. These facilities have not received support from other organizations. They work with a coach, receive pre and post assessment through the Environment Ratings Scale process, develop a quality improvement plan, and receive supplies and/or training based on their needs.

NAEYC ACCREDITATION

In 1985, NAEYC established a national, voluntary accreditation system to set standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs.

Within the past few years, the Accreditation standards have been revised to remain consistent with best practices. This has increased the value of this quality standard, but has also created financial and staffing challenges for centers to meet the new requirements.

NeAEYC staff is available to provide on-site consulting for accreditation. Costs are hourly.



**"Ordinary people with commitment can make an extraordinary impact on the world."
John Maxwell**

NATURE EXPLORE™ PROJECTS

A growing body of evidence is showing how important it is for children to spend time outdoors. A positive outdoors experience can impact health, social-emotional development, problem solving skills, attention span, self-discipline, and self-concept.

Nebraska AEYC is part of a Nature Action Collaborative, and provides support to the growing number of outdoor classrooms in Nebraska.

NEBRASKA CLASSROOMS

Child Care Sites:

- Buzy Kidz Day Care, Omaha
- Chadron State College, Chadron
- Child Saving Institute, Omaha
- Dimensions Ed. Research Foundation, Lincoln
- Hand in Hand Child Care, Lincoln
- Imagination Station, Omaha
- James R. Russell CDC, Omaha
- Montessori Children’s Academy, Omaha
- Montessori Children’s House, Omaha
- Nared’s Pee Wee Palace, Omaha
- Only Quality Kids, Bellevue
- Ruth Staples CD Laboratory, Lincoln
- St. John’s CDC, Seward

Head Start Sites:

- CNCS, Broken Bow
- CNCS, Columbus
- CFDC, Grand Island

Public School Sites:

- Boyd Elementary, Omaha
- Centura Public, Cairo
- Clay County, Fairfield
- Clay County, Lawrence
- EC Discovery Garden, Bancroft
- Gomez Heritage, Omaha
- Kearney Public, Kearney
- Kellom, Omaha
- Liberty, Omaha
- McPhee, Lincoln
- Mt. View, Omaha
- EC Center, Omaha
- Spring Lake, Omaha
- Webster County, Blue Hill

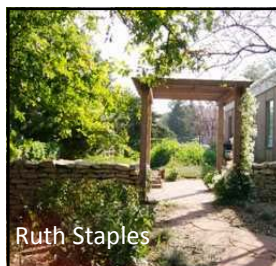
Public Sites:

- Gifford Farm Education Ctr, Bellevue
- Pioneers Park Nature Center, Lincoln

CDC=Child Development Center, EC=Early Childhood, CD=Child Development, CNCS=Central Nebraska Community Services, CFDC=Child & Family Development Corporation



Gomez



Ruth Staples



Pioneers Park



Chadron State



Hand In Hand



Creighton



Dimensions



CSI



Blue Hill



Gifford Farm



Kearney



Photos of children provided by individual programs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 1, 2009 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

Executive Committee

President: Steve Wilson, Superintendent, Logan Valley Schools, Hooper
President Elect: Dawn Mollenkopf, PhD, Professor, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Secretary: Pat Enevoldsen, Instructor, Southeast Community College, Lincoln
Treasurer: Linda Sullivan, Finance Manager, Family Service, Lincoln
Public Policy Chair: Sarah Ann Kotchian, JD, EC Coordinator, Building Bright Futures, Omaha

Members

Kim Chase, Family Child Care Provider, Papillion
Terrence Coleman, Human Resources, Pay Pal, Omaha
Karen Decker, Sugar & Spice Child Care Center Director, Kearney
Don George, Director, First National Bank CDC, Omaha
Jennifer Haggart, Coordinator, ECCOA, Omaha
Amber McCants, Family Child Care Provider, Lincoln
Kim Madsen, ED, Professor, Chadron State College, Chadron
Deb Ross, Executive Director, Child & Family Development Program, Hastings
Sue Ellen Wall, JD, Attorney, Wall Law Office, Lincoln
Jose Zapata, Executive Director, Central Nebraska Community Services, Loup City

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Advisory Committee

- Beth Brewer, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha
- Sue Jensen, Children's Services Licensing, Grand Island
- Crystal Kozak, Southeast Community College, Lincoln
- Diane Lewis, Health & Human Services System, Lincoln
- Connie Shonka, James R. Russell CDC, Omaha
- Paula Thompson, Central Nebraska Community Services, Loup City
- Kelly Vanness, Platte Valley Early Childhood Training Coalition, Columbus
- Roxanne Vipond, Grand Island Public Schools, Grand Island
- Jeanne Webb, Central Community College, Grand Island



www.NebraskaAEYC.org

NEBRASKA AEYC STAFF

Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator: gdefreece@hotmail.com, 402-476-5672
Connie Fishburn, Office Assistant: c-fishburn@hotmail.com, 402-476-5663
Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator: tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org, 402-476-5662
Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager: phoff44@hotmail.com, 402-476-2092
Cindy Jennett, Special Projects Coordinator: cindyjennett11@aol.com, 402-476-5653
Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Coordinator: TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org, 402-476-5668
Linda Zinke, Executive Director: lzinke@NebraskaAEYC.org, 402-476-2089

FAX: 402-476-5665

"Children are our most valuable natural resource."
Herbert Hoover