



# 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

**NeAEYC, Inc.. - committed to strengthening and supporting high quality early care and education for young children in Nebraska.**

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 c3 nonprofit corporation and 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 organization.

## SERVICES

State website - [NebraskaAEYC.org](http://NebraskaAEYC.org)  
Mini-grants for Week of the Young Child  
Conferences and conference support  
Young Children Journal

Quarterly Newsletter  
Advocacy & Public awareness  
Week of the Young Child activities  
Professional Insurance option

Statewide planning retreat  
Staff support  
Chapter development & support  
National website - [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)

## PROJECTS

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

Studies of quality early childhood care and education programs indicate the best programs are those where staff are well educated and turnover is low.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) is designed to provide scholarship funds for those working with young children. The scholarships address three key issues facing those in the early care and education field: the educational level of the staff, high turnover rates, and low wages.

#### Scholarship Program

##### The scholarship provides:

80% of tuition costs                      80% of books costs  
A travel stipend                              \$350 bonus  
Partial reimbursement for release time or the cost of substitute care.

**Qualified applicants must:** Work in a licensed child care facility or NE Rule 11 EC program, work at least 30 hours a week, and earn less than \$14.50 per hour.

**Scholarships are available for both 2 & 4-year degrees for:**  
Teachers & Teacher Aides                      Family Child Care Providers  
Director Employees                              Director Owners

#### For more information on T.E.A.C.H.

Contact: Brandee Lengel, Coordinator  
(402) 476-5658 or toll free: 877-656-2005  
email: [TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org)

### Quality Enhancement Project (QEP)

QEP is a new project that works with a select group of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA participants who are interested in improving the quality of their early childhood programs. A mentor, in partnership with the child care provider, utilizes the results of the Environment Rating Scales as a foundation for program improvement. The child care provider and the mentor create a plan, based on the rating scales, to acquire materials and/or training to improve the quality of their program.

#### For more information on QEP

Contact: Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator  
[tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org) or (402)-476-5662.

### ACCREDITATION

The Nebraska AEYC has a new accreditation support project which provides support for accreditation through:

- Conference Calls: for Directors of Accredited Centers to help them understand their current and future requirements
- Training Events: for Directors/Staff to provide information on the Accreditation guidelines
- Small Grants: for supplies or training to support the progress toward accreditation
- Staff Support: a part time facilitator to help centers find available resources and support

#### For more information on Accreditation:

Contact: Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator  
402-476-5662 or [tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org)

### NATURE EXPLORE PROJECT

This is a new partnership project that grew out of the recent World Forum on Nature Education for Young Children. 8 pilot sites and 12 demonstration sites have been identified. NeAEYC will be providing mentoring and support for the demonstration sites. Each site (both pilot and demonstration) will receive a visit from a landscape architect and a plan for their outdoor space. Each site will also be able to attend a series of training activities, and have the benefit of a mentor/coach. Limited funds will be available to help with supplies costs.

#### For more information on the Nature Explore Project

Contact: Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator  
402-476-5662 or [tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org)

### TO JOIN

Membership is valid for 12 months following the time of joining. One cost includes membership in the local AEYC or local chapter, Nebraska AEYC, Midwest AEYC, and the National AEYC.

To join, visit either [NebraskaAEYC.org](http://NebraskaAEYC.org), [NAEYC.org](http://NAEYC.org), or call one of the numbers below.

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