



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

2007 Annual Report

www.NebraskaAEYC.org

Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's early childhood community since 1976.

**2007
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE TO
CHILDREN
AWARD**



Michelle Rupiper
Dr. Rupiper began her career over 20 years ago. She has served as the president of Omaha AEYC, Nebraska AEYC, and Midwest AEYC. She is one of the state's most popular and qualified trainers. Michelle is a professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and directs the Ruth Staples Child Development Lab School.



Alicia Baillie
Alicia has worked for years to promote high quality early childhood services in Nebraska. She was instrumental in establishing articulation agreements with UNL. Recently retired as the department chair, she hired and mentored the early childhood staff at Southeast Community College.



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. They are a critical piece of Nebraska's infrastructure, and their influence is felt every day.

*If you have any questions, please contact either of us:
Steve Wilson - (308) 485-4465, swilson@esu10.org
Linda Zinke - (402) 476-2089, lzinke@NebraskaAEYC.org*

Steve Wilson, Board President

Linda Zinke, Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is committed to supporting high quality care and education for young children in the state of Nebraska. The mission of the NeAEYC is to:

- Promote professional development activities,
- Advocate for issues relating to children and families,
- Serve as a resource for local affiliates and for other agencies involved in working with and for children and families,
- Disseminate information supportive of quality services, education and care for children and their families,
- Provide networking opportunities for early childhood professionals and families throughout the state.

VALUE STATEMENTS

Nebraska AEYC values:

- Healthy development of all children,
- High standards for all the work in the early childhood field,
- Professional development and continuous education as essential to providing high quality care and education,
- The cultural and social diversity that is reflected within the early childhood workforce,
- Professionalism, teamwork, and collaboration when interacting with the members and the greater community, and
- The leadership from the board, staff and members to advance the quality of early care and education.

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 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 organizations.

NeAEYC provides the following services and projects:

PROJECTS

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA
- Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Quality Enhancement Pilot Project
- Nature Explore™ Project
- Community Services Initiative
- Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank fiscal agent

SERVICES

- State website - NebraskaAEYC.org
- Conferences and conference support
- Statewide planning retreat
- Advocacy & public awareness
- Staff support
- Chapter development and support
- Week of the Young Child mini-grant
- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual Report

STRUCTURE OF NEBRASKA AEYC

Two local affiliate chapters,

- Lincoln AEYC
- Omaha AEYC

Local chapters of the Nebraska AEYC

- All Nations Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
- Columbus Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
- Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
- Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
- Sarpy/Cass Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

Student chapters:

- Southeast Community College
- University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- Wayne State College

At-large members are unaffiliated with any local chapter.

ACCREDITATION FACILITATION PROJECT

NeAEYC became an official NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation project. Primary activities have been to provide information and support to the centers seeking accreditation.

One retreat was held in February and a second retreat was held in September, both at Mahoney State Park. At the September retreat, participating centers were provided file boxes containing information to help with the program portfolio process. More events are planned for the upcoming year.

Nebraska AEYC 2001-2007

Projects & Services

2001 - 5
2007 - 13

Funding sources

2001 - 4
2007 - 11

Staffing

2001 - 0
2007 - 4.5 FTE

Board of Directors

2001 - All EC
2007 - EC +
accountants,
attorneys,
community
reps, etc.

Financial Resources

Increased six-fold

Accreditation Retreat Quotes

*"Definitely a great thing.
Thanks for putting this
together."*

*"I learned more from this
conference than I did at
the NAEYC
conference in Ohio.
Thank you!"*

*"I really appreciated the
expertise of Tracy
(Gordon) and Linda
(Meyers) and the
opportunity to spend time
away from my center to
focus on the new
system."*

*"This was the best
workshop I have ever
been to!"*

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE NEBRASKA EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION INDUSTRY REPORT, 2007

Early Care & Education in Nebraska:

Employs over 12,000
people in 7,600 small
businesses

Impacts the learning &
development of 100,000
children through licensed
early care and education
programs

Produces over \$640
million in gross revenue
receipts

Results in a total
economic impact of over
\$240 million
annually

Increases Nebraska's
available workforce by
providing a resource that
lets thousands of
parents go to work

Project Funded by:

- Nebraska Health & Human Services System
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
- Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children
- United Way of the Midlands

*This study was developed
under the direction of the
Early Childhood Inter-
agency Council and
prepared by the UNL,
Dept of Economics*

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA, 2007

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 (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) 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

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is available and accessed across the state. T.E.A.C.H. scholars need to be working in licensed facilities, which exists in 86 of the state's 93 counties. T.E.A.C.H. scholars live and work in 36 of those counties.

T.E.A.C.H. SPOTLIGHT Nared's Pee Wee Palace, Child Care Center



Nared's Pee Wee Palace was established in a vacant lot in 1979 by Jacqueline Nared and her three daughters, and has remained a family business for nearly 30 years. It is a privately owned, licensed child care facility, strategically located in the heart of a densely populated urban community with a diverse population and a variety of income levels.

The facility is licensed to serve 59 toddlers, preschool, and school aged children. 95% of their population is low income. Twelve staff are employed.

This facility enjoys a rich history as a community leader, and has hosted a variety of city forums, workshops and conferences for local and state service organizations. They are also the founder and leaders of the North Side Quality Child Care Association, an organization of 14 minority owned child care providers. They strongly believe in a team approach to teaching, which puts the parents first. They enjoy a very successful rate of parent participation, including a large number of fathers.

The current owner, Deb Nared, was been a strong supporter of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA. Over the past six years, she has completed her Associate's Degree and has supported seven of her staff in gaining their education. Staff have also participated in the Quality Enhancement Pilot Project.

Deb says, "T.E.A.C.H. has really touched the lives of the teachers, who, in turn touch the children and families. The parents can see the growth and improvements in the quality and it impacts the community. T.E.A.C.H. really makes a difference."

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

T.E.A.C.H. SPOTLIGHT

Sue Wambaugh, Family Child Care Provider



Sue Wambaugh has been providing family child care in Lincoln for almost 32 years. She has been a scholarship recipient on the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA program for 2 1/2 years and has earned over 50 semester credits toward her Associate's Degree. Sue has taken both traditional and online classes and has a 4.0 grade point average. She has also participated in the Quality Enhancement Pilot Project.

“Before the T.E.A.C.H. program, I would never have attempted to take classes. I did not think, at my age and working full time, it would be possible. I have made several improvements in my program since continuing my education. Not a day goes by that I am not influenced by the positive affects of the T.E.A.C.H. program.”

EDUCATION

Students attend classes at institutions of higher education across the state. Community Colleges:

Community College	Percent of students
Central Community College	14.5%
Little Priest Tribal College	0.5%
Metropolitan Community College	56.4%
Mid-Plains Community College	1.5%
Northeast Community College	2.1%
Southeast Community College	13.5%
Western Nebraska Community College	4.7%

University/College	Percent of Students
University of Nebraska at Kearney	5.7%
University of Nebraska at Lincoln	0.5%
Wayne State College	0.5%

To qualify for a Bachelor's Degree scholarship, students need to be able to enter the university system as a junior. To help bridge the gap between the AAS degree and the university system, a T.E.A.C.H. Gap model has been developed. With this model, students can continue to attend the community college while earning general education electives necessary to register as a junior. Bachelor's Degree students are working on their degree through the Unified Endorsement.

The students have earned a total of **1,800.25 semester credits.**
(All quarter credits have been converted to semester credits).

T.E.A.C.H. Statistics

Ethnicity

65.1% Caucasian
 19.5% African American
 11.8% Hispanic
 3.5% Other

Employment Positions

65.3% Teachers
 23.8% Family Child Care Providers
 10.8% Directors

Employment Locations

56.5% For profit
 23.6% Non profit
 13.6% Head Start
 5.2% Faith based
 1% Public

Compensation

The average salary increase for T.E.A.C.H. scholars has been **6.3%**

Students participate in T.E.A.C.H. through 12-month contracts.

50% 1st contract
 21.2% 2nd contract
 16.5% 3rd contract
 6.7% 4th contract
 4.1% 5th contract
 1% 6th contract

Child Care Subsidy

88.8% of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA sponsoring facilities accept child care subsidy.

Turnover Rates

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

(The average turnover rate for the early childhood field is approximately 40%.)

T.E.A.C.H. SCHOLARS SAY

"I will be the first person in my immediate family to graduate from college. Thank you for providing this opportunity and supporting me throughout."

Teacher Asst,
Douglas Co.

"This isn't the most financially rewarding career choice, but it is very rewarding to the soul. I don't think I could justify the expense of college without this program."

Teacher Asst.,
Cass County

"I think it is important to never stop learning about the profession you're in, so I'm personally very thankful for the scholarship."

Director/Owner,
Hall County

"I am going to be able to be a better teacher for my children I care for and a better resource for their family."

Family Child Care
Provider
Saunders County

"I am grateful NeAEYC cares about the children in Nebraska and having educated quality teachers. I am proud to be a member, a participant in T.E.A.C.H. and an early childhood teacher in Nebraska."

Teacher Asst,
Madison County

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA, 2002-2007 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS

- Since 2002, 384 Nebraska child care providers, teachers, and directors have been awarded a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood scholarship.
48 Directors
93 Family Child Care Providers
243 Teachers/Teacher Aides
- 227 child care programs have sponsored a T.E.A.C.H. recipient.
- An average of over 13 credits per year have been completed while continuing to work full time.
- 7,388.5 college credits were awarded from 2002-2007
- Compensation increases of 5%-8% are average after the completion of one T.E.A.C.H. 12-month contract.
- 40% of the T.E.A.C.H. students are of minority background.
- T.E.A.C.H. students were located in 50 of the 86 counties that have licensed child care.
- 46 students have graduated while on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. Of these, 80% returned information for our survey. Of those 80%, 97% are still working in the early childhood field, and 86% of those are still at their sponsoring center.
- The **turnover for all T.E.A.C.H. students is 13%**. This is in comparison to data from the 2004 Omaha EQUIP survey showing turnover rates ranging from 28.4% to 83.6%.
- An estimated **4,400 children** have been impacted by a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood NEBRASKA scholar.

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Central Community College 1,766.5 credits
- Little Priest Community College 7 credits
- Metropolitan Community College 3,591.75 credits
- Mid-Plains Community College 39 credits
- Nebraska Indian Community College 34 credits
- Northeast Community College 193 credits
- Southeast Community College 1,119.25 credits
- Western Nebraska Community College 318 credits
- University of Nebraska at Lincoln 46 credits
- University of Nebraska at Kearney 318 credits

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

Nebraska Health & Human Services System
Nebraska Department of Education
Peter Kiewit Foundation
Lozier Foundation
William & Ruth Scott Foundation
Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office

NATURE EXPLORE™ PROJECTS

A project has been developed by the Dimensions Foundation in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska Department of Education, the Early Childhood Training Center, and the Nebraska AEYC to establish outdoor classrooms in locations across the state.

Each project receives a visit from a landscape architect-educator team, a concept plan, a copy of a resource book, training at Nature Explore™ workshops, follow-up support, and a chance to become one of the first certified Nature Explore™ classrooms in the nation.

Each classroom includes the following learning centers:

- A. An entry feature
- B. An open area for large-motor activities
- C. A climbing/crawling area
- D. A “messy materials” area
- E. A building area
- F. A nature art area
- G. A music and movement area
- H. A garden and/or a pathway through plantings
- I. A gathering area
- J. A storage area(s)



Gourd Tunnel

These optional areas may be also included:

- K. A water area
- L. A dirt-digging area
- M. A sand area
- N. A wheeled-toy area
- O. An area for swings or other dynamic equipment
- P. A greenhouse



Climbing Structure

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PILOT PROJECT

This project has been developed to evaluate the impact of coaching, support and supplies with early childhood programs. The model is based on a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale. The ERS is a research based tool that is used across the United States to assess Space & Furnishings, Activities, Personal Care, Interaction, Program Structure, Language & Reasoning, and Parents & Staff categories. We have completed the second year of this project. Areas with the lowest initial scores were Activities and Space & Furnishings’.

Changes from the pre test scores to the post test scores showed a **64% increase** in scores for the Early Childhood Environment Ratings Scales, and a **20% increase** for the Family Child Care Environment Ratings Scales.

IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR PLAY

“Nature-deficit disorder” is making our kids depressed, distracted, and overweight.”

“As children’s connections to nature diminish and the social, psychological, and spiritual implications become apparent, new research shows that nature can offer powerful therapy for such maladies as depression, obesity, and attention-deficit disorder.”

Richard Louv, author of **Last Child in the Woods**

During 2007:
11 child care centers
3 Head Start programs,
2 public facilities, and
13 public schools
 began to develop
 outdoor classrooms in
 Nebraska

These facilities are located in Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Seward, Broken Bow, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, Cairo, Fairfield, Lawrence, Bancroft, & Blue Hill

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PILOT PROJECT

Data from the first year of this project show the following positive changes when the pre and post Scales are compared:

Early Childhood ERS:
28 point increase
 Family Child Care ERS:
22 point increase
 Infant Toddler ERS:
17 point increase

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN, INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 1, 2007 - DECEMBER 31, 2007

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

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Crystal Kozak, Southeast Community College, Lincoln

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Kelly Vanness, Platte Valley Early Childhood Training Coalition, Columbus

Roxanne Vipond, Grand Island Public Schools, Grand Island

Jeanne Webb, Central Community College, Grand Island

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