

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Newsletter

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

Live Your Best Life

From surrounding yourself with like-minded peers to shifting your perspective, here are five ways you can grow into the best version of yourself.

1) **STOP COMPARING**—The next time you catch yourself comparing yourself to someone else, remember that you're the only "you" in the world. Why would you want to change that?

2) **FIND BEAUTY EVERYWHERE**—Instead of harping on the negatives, shift your perspective to see the beauty and positivity in every situation. It'll make all the difference.

3) **DON'T COUNT THE HOURS**—Counting down the hours to the weekend? Or even the end of a workday? Learn to be more present and enjoy the moment while it lasts.

4) **SEEK GUIDANCE**—It's healthy to lean on others through good and bad times. Put pride aside and accept help when it's necessary, whether it's setting your first therapy appointment or getting vulnerable with a loved one.

5) **DISCONNECT**—Take time for yourself. It's OK to unplug and escape every once in a while. Just be sure that you're fully recharged when you come back!



Your Personal Reminder



March 12th, 2021

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NAEYC Public Policy Forum

Each year, Nebraska AEYC sends a state team to Washington D.C. to meet with representatives and discuss policies and opportunities important to early childhood professionals, like you, in Nebraska. This year, NAEYC's Public Policy Forum was held completely online allowing us to attend with the largest group to date, including your T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Counselor! On February 28th, our group, along with other state teams, participated in a range of expert

policy briefings, guest speakers, and skill-building breakout sessions, providing many opportunities for networking and learning. During the week, our team also attended virtual Congressional visits with Nebraska's Congressional Representatives. Everyday, you work to support children, families, and communities. We know exactly why an investment in early childhood education matters, and why early childhood educators, like you, are the key to success. And, it's our job

to make sure our elected officials know it, too. It was my honor to be one of the representatives to speak on behalf of you all! Consider joining us next year!



Ongoing COVID-19 Resources

Information and resources are still emerging regarding COVID-19. Check out Nebraska Children and Families Foundation at www.nebraskachildren.org for a list of resources specific to childcare professionals, including FAQs, cleaning and

disinfectant supplies, ways to support children and families, and much more!

“Viruses are not the only things that are contagious. HOPE is contagious. KINDNESS is contagious. LOVE is contagious. POSITIVITY is contagious. YOUR SMILE is contagious.”

Congratulations to Our SUTQ 5-Star Quality Rated Programs!

Step Up to Quality is the Nebraska Early Childhood Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). A QRIS is a way to evaluate, support, and improve the level of quality in early childhood care and education settings.

As of February 10th, 2021, this is a list of 5-star quality rated programs in Nebraska that also participate in the T.E.A.C.H. program!



Little Sprouts Child Care owned by Denita Julius in Chadron, NE
Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center owned by Morning Star Evangelical Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE
Stoney's Home Daycare owned by Stoney Straatmann in Hastings, NE

Frequently Asked Questions

How many credit hours will T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA pay for and how long do I have to complete the coursework?

- All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA scholarships are awarded for a 12 month contract period. If attending a community college on the quarter system (Metro), scholars must complete 12-18 credit hours per contract year. If attending a college/university on the semester system (all other schools), a scholar must complete 9-15 credit hours per contract year. If a scholar does not complete the minimum number of credit hours during the 12 month contract period, it is possible that T.E.A.C.H. will be able to grant a one term contract extension. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Can T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA scholarship recipients take a term off?

- Yes. Recipients will still need to meet the minimum number of credit hours during the 12 month contract period in order to complete their contract. Recipients taking a term off will also still need to inform the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Scholarship Counselor that they won't be taking any classes. If a student takes two consecutive terms off, and does not enroll in classes by the third consecutive term, the student will have to reapply for their scholarship. Again, if a recipient does not complete the minimum number of credit hours during the 12 month contract period, it is possible that T.E.A.C.H. will be able to grant a one term contract extension. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Distinguished Service to Children Award

We are currently accepting nominations for the Nebraska AEYC Distinguished Service to Children Award. If you know a Nebraskan who has done exemplary work to promote the status, rights, services, and programs for/of children, consider nominating them for

this award! Go to our website, www.nebraskaaeyc.org to download a nomination form. You can also check out a list of previous winners and more information in the “About Us” and “Recognitions and Awards” sections.



Early Childhood Workforce Index 2020 Just Released

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment announced the release of our 2020 Early Childhood Workforce Index.

Find our T.E.A.C.H. information in the report.

This third edition contains:

- 1) An interactive U.S. map and detailed tables on wages, state

workforce policies, and initiatives

- 2) Spotlights on state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3) Policy recommendations on how to bolster the safety and livelihoods of early educators during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

- 4) An advocacy toolkit with policy guidelines and framing language



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We're on the web!
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Find us on Facebook and Instagram!



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Dates To Remember

- March 14th: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 17th: Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 20th: First Day of Spring
- March 27th: Passover
- April 4th: Easter
- April 10th-16th: Week of the Young Child
- April 22nd: Earth Day
- April 27th-29th: T.E.A.C.H. Virtual Symposium
- April 30th: Arbor Day—Office Closed
- May 9th: Mother's Day
- May 31st: Memorial Day—Office Closed
- June 20th: Father's Day

20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Apulinar from Douglas County. She is currently an assistant teacher in Omaha. She has been on an Associate Degree Scholarship Model since the Spring 2021 term.

- Where were you born? Norfolk
- What is your favorite book? The Fault In Our Stars
- If you could have one super power, what would it be? To be invisible
- What is one of your biggest pet peeves? Teeth grinding
- What's one place you really want to travel to? Paris
- What are your favorite TV shows? Family Guy
- What's your least favorite subject in school? Math
- Do you have any pets? No
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? Yes, four brothers & five sisters
- What is your favorite season? Fall; I love everything about fall.
- Do you have a favorite holiday? Christmas; I love giving people gifts.
- What's your favorite food? Wings
- What kind of music do you like? Hip hop
- What do you like to do in your free time? Workout, hangout with family & friends
- What's one thing you can't live without? Cozy pjs
- What is something you wish you could do? Fly
- What is your favorite movie? Mean Girls
- What is your favorite color? Light pink (rose gold)
- Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil? Always pen!
- What's your favorite subject in school? History & English