



# Spring 2025 Newsletter

## Week of the Young Child (WOYC)

The 2025 Week of the Young Child (WOYC) will be from April 5–11. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sponsors this annual event to celebrate early learning. NeAEYC is the state affiliate of NAEYC and home of TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska.

Why celebrate WOYC?

- To recognize the importance of early childhood education.
- To support young children and their families.
- To create positive learning environments.
- To recommit to ensuring that all children have high-quality early learning experiences.

How can you celebrate?

- Plan activities like:
  - 1) Singing and dancing.
  - 2) Making art.
  - 3) Planting.
  - 4) Reading stories, and
  - 5) Working together.
- Share why you celebrate WOYC on social media.
- Host a virtual event.
- Create a playlist for Music Monday.
- Gather ingredients for Tasty Tuesday.
- Draft a letter to elected officials and/or an email to parents.
- Replenish arts and crafts supplies for Artsy Thursday.

Resources

- You can find resources and ideas for WOYC in the NAEYC toolkit.
- You can learn more about WOYC on the NAEYC website.



Please help us spread the word about TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska!

Our information can be found in the “Education” section of the Nebraska AEYC website, [www.nebraskaaeyc.org](http://www.nebraskaaeyc.org).

Thank you for your support!

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## Every Response Matters: Child Care & School Readiness Tax Credit Surveys—By Michael Medwick, FFN Strategic Communications Manager

Nebraska’s Child Care Tax Credit and School Readiness Tax Credit provide vital support to families, early childhood professionals, child care programs and communities. But to ensure their long-term success, we need input from those who have applied.

Since the launch of our public awareness campaign in 2024, dozens of organizations and individuals have stepped up to help educate others about the credits and how to apply. As the end of the current tax season approaches, now is the time to keep working together to gauge the impact of these credits throughout the state.

### How you can help

If you or your organization have contact with families, child care providers or contributors to child care programs, you can play a key role in helping us collect this information. Here are three simple ways to get involved:

**1) Share the Tax Credit Surveys on your social media platforms.** We’ve created read-to-use social media graphics for you to use on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. These resources are available on the tax credit campaign websites at [NebraskaChildCareTaxCredit.org](https://www.NebraskaChildCareTaxCredit.org) and [SchoolReadinessTaxCredit.org](https://www.SchoolReadinessTaxCredit.org).

**2) Include the direct survey links in your organizational newsletters, blogs, or other communications .**

- **Refundable Tax Credit Survey** for parents of young children: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/ChildCareTaxCredit-R>
- **Nonrefundable Tax Credit Survey** for contributors to child care: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildCareTaxCredit-NR>
- **Nonrefundable Tax Credit Survey** for recipients of qualifying contributions to child care: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCTC-ContributionRecipients>
- **Refundable Tax Credit Survey** for child care staff or self-employed providers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolReadinessCredit-R>
- **Nonrefundable Tax Credit Survey** for owners of child care programs: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolReadinessCredit-NR>

**3) Spread the word at meetings and events.** Whether you’re hosting a chamber of commerce meeting, community roundtable, or a provider training, sharing a simple reminder with your attendees can boost the reach of the tax credit surveys.

### Takes just 5 minutes

Every response matters, and it only takes five minutes for tax credit applicants to share their input on the application process and how the credits could affect them, their families, child care programs, and communities. The more feedback we receive, the better the chances of improving the accessibility and effectiveness of these credits in years to come.

## Find Your Senator

Twenty-five members were sworn into office January 8th, 2025 as the 109th Nebraska Legislature convened for its 90-day first session. That number comprises six re-elected members and 19 newly elected senators—including two who had been appointed and one nonincumbent who is returning after previously serving in the legislature.

NebraskaLegislature.gov provides an easy tool for identifying your district and senator.

Enter your full address into the “Find Your Senator” search field on the right-hand side of the home page. Your district number and a picture of your senator will be displayed on the right, along with a link to that senator’s landing page.

This page includes the senator’s contact information, biography, and the committees they serve on. It also provides links to their photos, bills they’ve introduced and coverage of them in the Unicameral Update. (The Unicameral Update is a free, weekly newsletter published during the legislative session.)



## Funding

Dear TEACH Recipients and Sponsoring Programs,

We wanted to take this opportunity to explain how our funding works. We receive funding from the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) from the federal government. Those funds are given to the Nebraska Department of Education that then pass down to us. While we are cautiously optimistic that our funds are secure, the key word is cautious.

We are facing uncertain and unstable economic times. We all need to be aware that our funding could change, and we may have to adjust what we will be able to offer. This whole situation is out of our control. We do our best to work with what we have and are grateful for any amount of funding we receive, instead of nothing at all.

We aren’t trying to scare you, but to have you just put this on your radar. It may require flexibility, if it comes down to it, which I know can be hard, but you can do hard things. It’s why you are going to school while working full-time and managing a personal life.

If you would like your voice to be heard by our state and federal delegates, we always encourage you to reach out to them. If you are interested in an advocacy letter writing aid that you could use as a guide, let me know.

We are so grateful for your participation in the TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska scholarship program. If you have any questions, please contact myself or the Executive Director of NeAEYC, Tracy Gordon.

**Just to reiterate... We are still fully funded and don’t see any changes happening to that funding, but we will have to be flexible if that changes.**



## Upcoming Events

*\*Please note  
when Julie will be  
out of the office  
and plan  
accordingly!\**

- April 2nd: Julie Off
- April 11th: Julie Out Of The Office (SkillsUSA)
- April 18th & 21st: Julie Off
- April 23rd-24th Julie Limited Availability (Virtual TEACH Conference)
- April 25th: Arbor Day (Office Closed)
- May 16th & 22nd: Julie Off
- May 26th: Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- June 19th: Juneteenth (Office Closed)

Please check out the school schedules in the TEACH section of our website, <https://www.nebraskaeyc.org/current-recipient--sponsor-resources.html>.

TEACH Early Childhood®  
Nebraska

TEACH Early Childhood® is a  
licensed program of Early Years.



A Program of Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

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## 20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Christina from Lancaster County! She is currently a family child care provider in Lincoln She has been on a TEACH Scholarship since the Spring 2022 term and plans to graduate this May with her associate degree and continue on to earn her bachelor's degree next.

1. **Where were you born?** Lincoln, NE
2. **What is something you are proud of?** Mom Life
3. **What is something you're afraid of?** Heights
4. **What's your least favorite subject in school?** English
5. **Do you have any pets?** 3
6. **Do you have any brothers or sisters?** 4
7. **What is your favorite season?** Spring
8. **Do you have a favorite holiday?** Christmas
9. **What's your favorite food?** Chips & Salsa
10. **What kind of music do you like?** All
11. **What's one thing you can't live without?** Water
12. **Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold?** Hot
13. **What is something you wish you could do?** Retire...Now
14. **If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?** Fun, Wild, Generous
15. **What is your favorite book?** Harry Potter
16. **What's one place you really want to travel to?** Ireland
17. **What is your favorite movie?** Christmas Vacation

18. **What's your favorite subject in school?** Science

19. **What is your favorite color?** Pink

20. **Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil?** Pen

Thank you, Christina, for your responses! If you would like to participate, please send me your responses to these 20 questions or create 20 questions of your own!