

10 Facts About Early Childhood Education in Nebraska

1

Nearly **90%** of **brain development** takes place during a child's **first 5 years** of life. Children's earliest experiences shape how their brains develop.¹

2

Nebraska families need quality early childhood programs to work and support their families. More than **72%** of children **under age 6** in our state live **in homes where all adults work**.²

3

Nebraska is facing an early childhood care and education crisis. Almost every county in the state (**91%**) with licensed child care programs **does not have enough places to meet demand**.³

4

Families in **11 Nebraska counties** do not have access to licensed child care programs.³

5

Nearly half (**46%**) of licensed **child care providers** in Nebraska who employ staff report that staff have **left the profession** entirely, in part, due to low compensation.⁴

6

The median **annual pay** for center-based teachers **falls below the poverty line** for a **family of 3**.⁵

7

Nearly **30%** of home-based providers and **20%** of center-based teachers **depend on** some type of **public assistance**.⁵

8

Nebraska's child care crisis is hurting employers and state revenues. Nebraska businesses report **losses of \$745 million** annually due to **absenteeism, lost productivity, and employee turnover**.⁶

9

Investments in high-quality early care and education yield an average return of \$4 for every dollar spent; in circumstances where children are extremely vulnerable, the **return can be as high as \$13**.⁷

10

More than 80% (**84%**) of Nebraska voters **agree** that the lack of child care in Nebraska is a problem that will not solve itself and **Nebraskans must come together to solve the problem** and **invest in solutions**.⁸

Supporting Nebraska's children and early childhood teachers is a win for everyone.

Sign up and join us at NebraskaCaresForKids.org

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Quality Early Childhood Education
For All Nebraska Families