

## Nebraska's Early Childhood Framework:

- Implements an integrated statewide system perspective
- Builds on existing initiatives

### This work is guided by the following Principles:

- Focus on early childhood defined as birth through age 8
- Cultural competency with respect to racial, ethnic, and linguistic differences
- Child and family focused
- Is strengths-based
- Families having access to information, resources and supports
- Data driven decision making



- **Nebraska's Early Childhood Framework was developed as a collaborative work product of the Together for Kids and Families (TFKF) work groups.**
- **For information regarding TFKF's work group membership and to see the strategic plan in it's entirety visit:**

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/TogetherKidsFamilies](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/TogetherKidsFamilies)

- **For more information contact:**

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# Nebraska's Early Childhood Framework

A Collective Vision on Behalf of Nebraska's Young Children and their Families

2012



# Goals

Early care and education in Nebraska is high quality, developmentally appropriate and accessible to all children.

Nebraska families support their children's optimal development by providing safe, healthy & nurturing environments.

The early childhood social, emotional and behavioral health needs of Nebraska's children are met.

All Nebraska children have access to a dental/medical home, and receive high quality health services.

## Outcomes

### Access Outcomes

- Early Care & Education**
- Increased availability of education & professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals.
  - Increased access to high quality early care & education opportunities birth - grade 3.

- Parent Education & Family Support**
- Increased availability & use of high quality parenting/child development information, services & supports.
  - Increased parent involvement and leadership at local community, state and policy levels.

- Social, Emotional, & Mental Health**
- Increased availability of service providers proficient in integrated skills & competencies for mental health, early care & education, & home visiting.
  - Increased knowledge of brain science & importance of adult-child interaction.

- Health: Dental/Medical Home and Child Care Health Consultation**
- Increased number of children receiving EPSDT.
  - Increased number of children with health insurance coverage.
  - Increased access to preventive services including physical, oral and mental health.

### Quality Outcomes

- Increased number of children meeting developmental milestones.
- Increased number of high quality early care & education settings.
- Increased number of schools promoting educational supports for young children.

- Improved family & community knowledge & skills to support optimal child health & development.
- Increased number of children who live in safe, healthy, & nurturing environments.

- Increase in curriculum integration at institutions of higher learning across disciplines.
- Increased number of environments including early care & education settings, providing an assessment, early identification and strategies such as mental health consultation.

- Increased number of children who have a medical/dental home.
- Increased number of children who are fully immunized.
- Increased number of children receiving all recommended elements of well-child check.

### Equity Outcomes

- Increased number of licensed child care providers who accept child care subsidy.
- Decreased gaps in school readiness & achievement between populations of children.

- Increased availability of resources/supports to promote family self-sufficiency.
- Increased coordination & integration of services & supports for families & children who are at-risk or have special needs.

- Increased number of mental health services available to those in need.
- Decrease in out of home placements.

- Increased number of medical, dental, and medical home providers who accept children covered by Medicaid.
- Decreased number of children without health insurance or who are under insured.

## Strategies For Action

- Through a mixed delivery system, provide access to voluntary, high quality, early childhood education and care programs and services that meet the needs of all young children and their families.
- Develop and refine a system of support to improve the quality and effectiveness of early childhood education and care programs and services.

- Promote and support evidence-based home visitation services for families with young children.
- Promote integration of parent-to-parent peer support systems, when appropriate, into programs and services for families.
- Increase access to respite services to meet the needs of families.
- Coordinate statewide systems for sharing comprehensive information with families.

- Assist communities to develop/enhance an effective system of care to support the social, emotional and behavioral health needs of Nebraska's young children.
- Build the capacity of individuals who interact with young children to support social, emotional and behavioral health.

- Implement and sustain the dental/medical home as a standard of care.
- Establish the infrastructure to support a comprehensive system promoting access to oral health services including preventive oral health care.
- Develop early childhood health & safety communication network(s).
- Disseminate data-driven and evidence-based training and material resources to improve health and safety in child care.

## Foundations

Collaboration & Partnerships

Governance & Financing

Family Leadership Development

Professional Development

Supportive Services

Quality Standards & Guidelines

Monitoring & Improvement

Data systems & Outreach