

# Early Childhood

## 2021 Impact At-A-Glance



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Through programs like CHIME, we continue to provide high-quality resources and professional development to Nebraska's essential early care and education workforce.

A multitude of challenges in 2021 caused high stress, burnout, and turnover for Nebraska's early childhood workforce. Through programs like CHIME, we positively impacted the well-being of some educators. "This is probably one of the best things I have ever done. Throughout the 20 years that I have done childcare, this is by far the most educational 8-week program I have been in. I think it has helped me 150% make a difference in caring for myself and realizing the person that I am in order to become the person I want to be.... We're all in the same boat together, why not support each other?" - Leisa Gracia noting the positive impact from our CHIME program.

*Through relevant and timely resources and programming, our team is crucial to supporting the early childhood workforce and families with young children in Nebraska, nationally and beyond.*

**1345** children and over 156 early childhood teachers and educators have been served by the CHIME program in 2021.

**95%** of participants agreed that this professional development program was beneficial for their work.

**\$2.1** MILLION in grant dollars awarded to support the emotional well-being of early childhood educators with CHIME.

# Early Childhood



There is no greater responsibility or greater reward than supporting the development of young children and promoting family well-being. Nebraska Extension leverages well-designed University research and relevant resources to enhance high-quality learning experiences for children, families and early childhood professionals. Nebraska Extension's experts foster partnerships with child-focused organizations across the state, nationally, and globally to enrich the field of early child care and education— with the ultimate goal of helping children and families grow and thrive in safe, healthy and supportive relationships.

## Early Childhood 2021 Highlights

- Partnership with Sesame Street in Communities to present our two hour Read For Resilience program which reached more than 109,000 viewers. The Read For Resilience storybook guides have been accessed by 514 caregivers and reaching more than 10,000 children.
- In collaboration with partners, and 416 families and educators, we developed a statewide “Child Care Essentials: Choosing Quality Child Care in Nebraska” guide for parents and caregivers seeking information on how to choose quality child care that best meets the needs of their family.



# 10,000

children and 864 caregivers spanning 31 states and 5 countries have been supported through storybook learning from the Read for Resilience and STEM Imagination Guide Programs, which Nebraska Extension facilitates.



## Expanding our Reach

Our team continues to pivot to meet the needs of the early childhood workforce. In the words of an online participant, “Love how upbeat and common sense both presenters are...The ideas presented are very doable in our home childcare setting and the cost to put into action is low.”



# 117,987 CAREGIVERS & 158,468 CHILDREN

reached with interactive and meaningful professional development.