

The Learning Child

2020 Impact At-A-Glance



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child.unl.edu



As childcare settings struggled to keep their doors open as an essential service the Learning Child team met early childhood professionals' and families' needs by offering safe and relevant online trainings.

When it comes to “essential workers,” Nebraska’s childcare professionals may not come immediately to mind. But if they didn’t exist, the effect on families, the workforce and the children themselves would be profound. COVID-19 dealt a stiff blow to childcare educators and other professionals. If they weren’t forced to close, they faced serious financial, emotional and health assurance challenges. Nebraska Extension delivered free online education that enabled childcare professionals to obtain their required hours of professional development—at a time when many of them were struggling just to buy enough hand sanitizer. Extension also provided innovative programming that kept children engaged and nurtured during a time of crisis, childcare workers inspired and resilient—and families confident that their children were being cared for safely and responsibly.

“Rooted in Relationships has always been honored to collaborate with Nebraska Extension. The willingness of both teams to work together and figure out how to best reach child care providers and other caregivers has been critical.”

- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

1800

credit hours delivered

14,697

Caregivers accessed and utilized the Learning Child resources

\$41,776

of free training offered in-kind by Learning Child Educators and Specialists.

The Learning Child



12,000 VIEWS

A Beautiful Day was created with children and families in mind to foster learning and play and support caregivers during times of physical distancing.

cehs.unl.edu/abeautifulday

"My wife and I watched Dip and Dot the chicken and the kid reading to his stuffed animals this morning. A Beautiful Day seems like a really great resource."

- Bill Hoffman, USDA/NIFA Chief of Staff

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, nation 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.

The Learning Child 2020 Highlights

- Read for Resilience continues to build resources after last year's historic flooding by adding new storybooks to the series to support children coping with COVID-19 related stressors.
- CHIME provided education and guidance on mindfulness, compassion, and reflective practice to 110 professionals.
"I loved this class...I am grateful for this experience and will continue to use mindfulness and gratitude every day." - child care provider



New Website to Help Parents Find Quality Childcare Programs

Nebraska Extension's Learning Child team created a new website to help families choose a high-quality childcare program. Its main resource, a mobile friendly checklist has been downloaded over 300 times.

go.unl.edu/qualitychildcare



When rural communities lack access to affordable, high-quality childcare, there are significant implications for the viability of local economies and the well-being of children, families and their communities.