



Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute
at the University of Nebraska

March 2016

Nebraskans Speak About Early Childhood Care and Education

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Purpose



- Understand Nebraskans' attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about early childhood care and education.
- Inform our investment in early care and education.
- Explore attitudes about the state's support for young children at greatest risk.

Research Questions



1. Do Nebraskans understand the long-term effects of early care and education?
2. Is high-quality early care and education accessible and affordable in Nebraska?
3. Is early care and education an important investment priority?
4. Do Nebraskans support quality early care and education for children from low-income households?

Methods and Findings

Long-Term Impact

68%

of Nebraska residents say early care and education has a lot of impact on the long-term success of students in school and in life.

School Readiness

Only 10% strongly agree

that most young children in Nebraska are prepared to be successful in school when they start Kindergarten.

Affordability and Availability

Only 6% of
Nebraskans

strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is **affordable** for every family in Nebraska.

Just 11% of residents strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is **available**.

Quality

Just 15% of
Nebraskans

are very satisfied with the quality of early childhood care and education programs in the city or area where they live, while 31% are satisfied.

High Priority

Two-thirds of Nebraska residents

strongly agree or agree that the state should make early care and education a higher priority than it is today.

Low-Income Children

The majority of Nebraskans

agree that the state should provide early care and education for all children from low-income families who choose to use it.

Takeaways

1. Early care and education is important to Nebraskans.
2. More affordable and available high-quality child care is needed.
3. Nebraskans believe the state should invest more in early care and education.
4. Nebraskans voice strong support for children in greatest need.



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402.554.2924

buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu



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