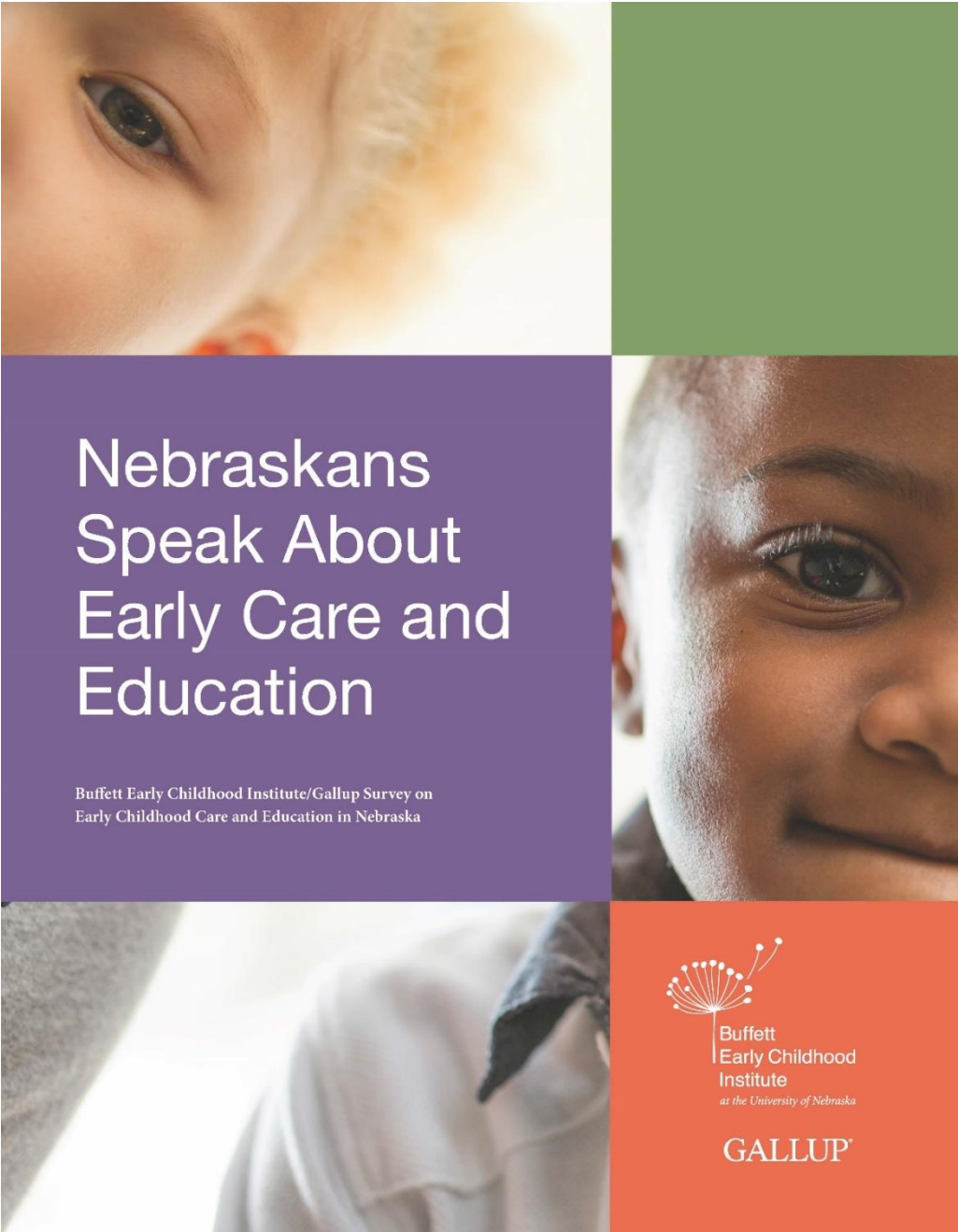


# Parenting Matters: A National Symposium

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# Nebraskans Speak About Early Care and Education

Buffett Early Childhood Institute/Gallup Survey on  
Early Childhood Care and Education in Nebraska



Buffett  
Early Childhood  
Institute  
*at the University of Nebraska*

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# Purpose of Survey

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

# Main Report 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.





# Nebraska Parents Speak About Early Care and Education

Buffett Early Childhood Institute/Gallup Survey on  
Early Childhood Care and Education in Nebraska



# Concern for the Future

37% & 40%

OF NEBRASKANS WITH  
YOUNG CHILDREN

OF NEBRASKANS WITH NO  
CHILDREN

believe that children's lives will get better  
10 years from now.

# Research Questions

1. What are Nebraska parents' perspectives about early care and education?
2. What are Nebraska parents' perceptions about the accessibility and affordability of high-quality early care and education in the state?
3. What are Nebraska parents' views about investment in early care and education?

# Child Care Options

When families cannot care for their child(ren) in their own home during all or part of the day, which of the following care settings do you think is the best option for most families?

- 50% – early care and education center
- 16% – home-based child care setting
- 32% – family member
- 2% – friend or neighbor



# Enrollment

NEARLY

# two-thirds

OF NEBRASKANS WITH  
YOUNG CHILDREN

report that their young child is enrolled in an early care and education center, a home-based care setting, or an elementary school.

# Child Care Quality

FEWER THAN HALF

46%

OF NEBRASKANS

are very satisfied or satisfied with  
the quality of care and education  
programs where they live.

# Child Care Affordability

NEARLY

two-thirds

OF NEBRASKANS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

say cost is a big or biggest challenge families face in getting high-quality early care and education for their young children.

# Support for Programs for 4-year-olds

78% & 72%

OF NEBRASKANS WITH  
YOUNG CHILDREN

OF NEBRASKANS WITH NO  
CHILDREN

strongly agree or agree that the state should  
make early care and education programs  
available for all **4-year-olds** whose families  
choose to use them.

# Support for Programs for 3-year-olds

59% & 55%

OF NEBRASKANS WITH  
YOUNG CHILDREN

OF NEBRASKANS WITH NO  
CHILDREN

strongly agree or agree that the state should  
make early care and education programs  
available for all **3-year olds** whose families  
choose to use them.



# Parent Report Takeaways



1. Nebraska parents report a need for early care and education programs.
2. Nebraska parents believe the early care and education their own child receives is good or excellent but are concerned about the cost — as well as the quality of care available to all children in the city or area in which they live.
3. Nebraskans with children and without children want greater investment in early care and education.



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