

Thriving Children, Families, and Communities



Bridging Cultures and Languages for
High Quality Early Care and Education

Culturally Affirming Approaches to Workforce and Program Development

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Start early. Start well.

Nebraska's Changing Communities

How can we come to know our communities well?

How can we plan with a lens on inclusion, assets, and opportunities?

20.4% of Nebraskans were of color in 2016. Expected to increase to 38% by 2050. (Kids Count Report, 2017)

Number of PreK-Grade 3 English learners in Nebraska increased 22% from 2012-13 to 2016-17 (Nebraska Dept. of Education)

Bridging Cultures and Languages: Promising Approaches

**Promote Economic
Development**

**Build Capacity for Early Care
and Education**

**Advance the Quality of Early
Care and Education**

**Support Diverse Families,
Children, and Care Providers**



Midlands Latino Community Development Program



**Child care plays important role
in community development**

**Participants develop as
business entrepreneurs while
also increasing the quality of
the child care they deliver**

**Bilingual Latino child care
programs provide an important
resource to be cultivated in
many communities**

Learning Community Center of South Omaha

5 Components that are 2 generational:

- 1.ESL- 12 levels
- 2.Parenting Workshops
- 3.PACT Days: Family day
- 4.Home Visiting Program
- 5.To be involved in their children's education.



“I like the program because it keeps my family together- everything from ESL classes, to having my child in the learning room, to learning how to cook healthy meals.” - Linda Orellana

Educational Navigators

“My navigator helps me navigate the community resources that are beneficial for me and my family.” – Linda Orellana

“The home visiting program is a safety net for me and my family. My navigator cares for my children’s success not only academically, but also their health.” – Juana Calmo



Professional Development for All



Authentic, hands-on learning experience

Peer **collaboration** and networks

Content that is **culturally relevant**

Building capacity for participants and presenters

Direct **application** to working with children who are dual language learners

This all translates to...

Enhancing and improving the quality of learning experiences for children

Our collaboration

“When PD for All started offering the sessions in Spanish, I thought to myself, Yay!! I’ll be able to participate more often in the sessions.” -Maria Elena

“The BECI partnership at the LCCSO opened the doors to the community and it stated: We care about you!” – Nohemi Lopez



Table Partners

What questions or ideas emerged for us?

What might we share from our own work and experience?



Learning from Families and Communities...



...in order to to serve children well



Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska

What is cultural competence?

“Basic cultural competence refers to the provider’s capacity to accept and respect difference and to continually self-assess his or her reactions to different cultures.” (Torres)

Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education

What does a culturally and linguistically responsive center look like?



How Communities Can Support

- Involvement
- Engagement



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