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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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)

Start early. Start well.
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

Start early. Start well.
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

Start early. Start well.
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**

Start early. Start well.
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 serve children well
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
Table Partners

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