WHY THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE MATTERS

Research Tells Us:

• The human brain is not fully developed at birth. Nearly 90% of brain growth takes place during the first five years of life.
• The greatest opportunity for lifelong impact on children’s brain development is in the years from birth through age 8.
• The skills and knowledge of caregivers, teachers, and others who have professional responsibility for young children are essential for helping children realize their potential.
• The single most important building block of brain architecture and childhood development is reliable, positive, and consistent interactions between the developing infant or child and familiar, caring adults.
• A highly qualified early childhood workforce is the cornerstone of high-quality early care and education.

In Nebraska:

• More than 75% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work and no one is left to care for them if they are not enrolled in some form of child care.
• 84% of Nebraska counties do not have enough child care slots to meet the needs of families with young children.
• In 2016, more than 4,000 Nebraska parents were forced to leave a job, turn down a job offer, or change jobs because of child care problems.
• Statewide, only 15% of Nebraskans report being very satisfied with the quality of the early care and education programs available in the city or area where they live.

Read the full report and join us at EarlyYearsMatter.org/workforce.