

About the Buffett Early Childhood Institute

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska is devoted to improving the development and learning of children from birth through age 8, through research, practice, policy, and outreach. We partner with colleagues across the University of Nebraska, the state, and nation to ensure that all children and families have access to the quality early learning experiences they need to grow and thrive.



Transforming Early Care and Education

We conduct collaborative research to deepen understanding about early care and education, and we develop innovative, research-based solutions on behalf of all young children, their families, and the educators who work with them.



For Policymakers

We generate early childhood research focused on timely, relevant, and compelling issues that have clear implications for early childhood policy and practice and disseminate the findings to maximize impact on policy locally and nationally.



For Educators

We work side-by-side with local superintendents, principals, early childhood educators, and community partners to deliver research-based professional development opportunities and connect children and their families with quality early care, education, and support.



For Communities

We join forces with civic leaders, the business community, philanthropists, and nonprofit organizations to share—and put into action—the best of what is known about early learning and development.

- The Institute was established in 2013, reflecting the shared vision and commitment of university leadership and Omaha philanthropist Susie Buffett.
- We harness the interdisciplinary resources and research of the four University of Nebraska campuses to apply the best of what is known about the benefits of early care and education in Nebraska and across the nation.
- Walter S. Gilliam, Ph.D. serves as executive director of the Buffett Institute. Over 40 Institute staff members represent many backgrounds and areas of expertise in early childhood development, care, and education.