

# Policy Framework

Our engagement in public policy is driven by research and innovation on behalf of young children, their families, and those who work with them.

The Institute is part of the University of Nebraska, the state's only public university and one that was born out of a deep commitment to public service. We are not an advocacy or lobbying organization.

Public universities were founded with the goal of generating and preserving knowledge and research for their community and the world beyond. This important role continues today—and it's one we take to heart in our own work. We ask and analyze the important questions, synthesize and learn from data, then translate this knowledge into meaningful resources to maximize impacts on early childhood practice and policy locally, regionally, and nationally.

Preserving, generating, and sharing knowledge isn't just an academic exercise. When evidence-driven solutions are created, parents will be better supported in their role as their child's first teacher; the early childhood workforce will be adequately compensated; communities and tribes will be strengthened; states will realize the benefits of increased investments in the early years; and public investments will be more transparent, accountable, and effective.

## Our policy areas of focus include:

- Health and mental health of children and those who care for them, especially parents
- Early childhood workforce
- Early childhood finance and tax policy
- Early childhood facilities
- Business engagement strategies that support early learning
- Rural challenges and solutions
- Military child development
- Tribal relations and early childhood

We look forward to partnering to ensure all children and families have access to quality early learning experiences.

For more information about the Buffett Institute and our research and policy priorities, visit [buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu](http://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu)