

transformED

A University of Nebraska–Lincoln initiative dedicated to supporting Nebraska’s young children and early childhood educators

What is TransformED?

UNL’s TransformED (“ED” is one syllable) is a collaborative research initiative aimed at promoting children’s social and emotional development by enhancing early childhood education services, strengthening connections across systems and supporting the workforce. This work builds on the strengths of educators and families with children from birth to age 8.



Why does this work matter?

- Social and emotional skills enhance children’s resilience and ability to overcome adversity, helping them become productive adults who contribute to Nebraska’s vitality and social good.
- Early childhood educators need personalized, comprehensive support to be healthy, knowledgeable and prepared to address children’s needs.
- Early childhood systems must be reimaged and strengthened to support educators and families and promote positive outcomes for all children.

Who is involved?

University, state and community are working together to address early childhood education challenges in partnership with program administrators and classroom educators statewide.

Funding & Support

TransformED is funded by the UNL Office of Research and Innovation and housed in the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (CYFS).

How does it work?

TransformED uses a comprehensive, aligned and coordinated approach to promote sustainable change in Nebraska's early childhood systems. Our work strategically supports educators, families, classrooms and communities.



Innovative Practices

- We are developing **Connections for Kids**, an innovative educational approach that combines the strengths of three evidence-based interventions used in Nebraska.
- This integrated approach promotes supportive classroom environments, strong family engagement and positive educator well-being — equipping educators to meet children's needs and reducing their stress.
- We are offering professional learning opportunities to educators and pre-service students to implement Connections for Kids.



Assessment

- We are developing **Thriving Children**, an innovative social and emotional assessment tool, using input from educators and families, that prioritizes children's developmental needs.
- The tool helps educators improve classroom practices, manage challenging behaviors and reduce workload.



Collaboration & Community

- We are launching **Nurture Nebraska**, a statewide public awareness campaign to empower families, parents and caregivers to learn more about social and emotional development. **Learn more at: nurturenebraska.org**
- In partnership with the Nebraska Academy for Early Childhood Research, we are facilitating connections among experts in the state's early childhood practice, policy and research communities.



Contact Us

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To learn more about our work, scan the QR code or visit: transform-ed.org