

# transformED

**Transforming the Early Childhood Education Workforce.  
Promoting Equitable Experiences for Kids.**

## What is TransformED?

TransformED (“ED” is one syllable) is a collaborative research initiative aimed at promoting children’s social and emotional well-being by enhancing early childhood education services, strengthening connections across systems and supporting the workforce. This work, grounded in inclusive excellence, 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 reimagined and strengthened to promote lasting change that supports educators and families and leads to positive outcomes for all children.

## Who is involved?

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

## Funding & Support

TransformED is funded by a Grand Challenges Catalyst Award from University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Office of Research and Economic Development and housed in the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (CYFS).



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see [go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination](https://go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination). © 2024, Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska.

## 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 targets educators, families, classrooms and communities.



### Innovative Practices & Professional Learning

- We are developing Connections for Kids, an innovative educational approach that combines the strengths of three evidence-based interventions used in Nebraska.
- This integrated and aligned approach will promote skills in family engagement and deliver mental wellness programs, preparing educators to address children's needs and reducing their stress.
- After the approach is developed, we will offer professional learning to educators and pre-service students to implement Connections for Kids.



### Data & Assessment

- We are developing an innovative social and emotional assessment tool, with input from educators and families, that prioritizes equity, cultural responsiveness and children's developmental needs.
- The tool will help educators improve classroom practices and their ability to manage challenging behaviors, thereby reducing workloads, and promoting retention.



### Collaboration & Community Engagement

- We are hosting events and activities that bring together experts from the state's early childhood research, practice and policy communities to collectively set goals, problem solve and improve practices.
- We are developing a strategic messaging campaign that will increase public awareness of the need to nurture children's social and emotional skills.



### Contact Us

For more information, please contact:

**Lisa Knoche, Ph.D.**  
*Principal Investigator*  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
[lknoche2@unl.edu](mailto:lknoche2@unl.edu)



To learn more about  
our work, scan the  
QR code or visit:  
[transform-ed.org](https://transform-ed.org)