

BIRTH – AGE 3 PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Position Announcement

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Birth – Age 3 Program Specialist: Metro Omaha Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan.

The program specialist will assist Institute and school district staff in implementing the birth – age 3 home visiting component of a comprehensive initiative to eliminate or reduce income-based social, cognitive, and achievement gaps among young children at risk in the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The initiative relies on a birth – Grade 3 approach in which schools serve as a hub for connecting all early childhood services to provide high-quality continuous programming across the first eight years of life. Funding is available from a new taxing authority in the Learning Community. The role of the birth – age 3 program specialist will include field-based leadership and support for home visiting staff connected to participating school sites.

Buffett Early Childhood Institute Profile

Envisioned as a new model for how public higher education is engaged in the first years of life, the newly established Buffett Early Childhood Institute is a four campus, university-wide, multidisciplinary research, education, outreach, and policy institute of the University of Nebraska committed to helping transform early childhood development and education in Nebraska and across the nation.

The long-term goal of the Institute is to be a leading center where scholars, practitioners, community members, and policy makers collaborate to advance a unified approach that can improve the lives of young children and families and the systems that support them.

Applicants should note, the goals of the Institute are university- and state-wide, but the location of the Institute administration will be in Omaha. This position will work primarily out of the Omaha office to coordinate and co-lead implementation of the Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan in the school districts that make up the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Job Responsibilities

- Coordinate with the director of program development and the program manager to lead new site start-up procedures for a 0 – 3 home visiting program connected to each of ten school sites implementing a birth through third grade approach.
- Collaborate with the preschool – third grade program specialist and the family and community engagement specialist to promote coordinated implementation of birth – age 3 home visiting, family and community engagement, and PreK – Grade 3 professional development within and across school sites.
- Visit each participating site on a regular basis (four to six hours per month), supporting the site team as they implement the Early Steps to School Success (ESSS) program or other affiliated home visiting program. This involves providing training, coaching, and technical assistance to the birth – age 3

home visitors with a particular focus on early language, literacy, and parenting education. It also includes building a professional learning community among home visitors.

- Assist home visitors in the collection and reporting of data required for progress monitoring and project evaluation, and overseeing the quality of data collection.
- Provide consultation to school leaders to assist with supervision of home visitors and to support the implementation and monitoring of the home visiting program, including regular site visits to each participating school.
- Coordinate with the program manager to ensure fidelity in the implementation of the selected home visiting model, incorporating orientation, training, and technical assistance consistent with the model.
- Assist the director of program development, program manager, and other Buffett Institute staff in designing and executing professional development, data collection, communication, and other needs that arise through the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan implementation.
- Identify and consult with the director of program development and the program manager to resolve complex issues and problems.

Minimum Requirements:

- A master's degree or higher in fields related to early childhood development and education, including birth – age 3 training.
- At least five years of relevant experience in supervising or supporting professional/paraprofessional home visitors.
- Experience in training, coaching, and mentoring.
- Experience developing and implementing training, including distance learning techniques.
- Knowledge of early development with an emphasis on infant/toddler development and early language and literacy.
- Knowledge of families living in poverty and functioning under conditions of high stress.
- Experience working with racially, culturally, or linguistically diverse children and families.
- Experience working in limited-resource communities.

Successful candidates will exhibit the following personality traits:

- Strong interpersonal skills with demonstrated capacity as a team player and relationship builder.
- Demonstrated management and organizational skills related to program implementation.
- Strong computer, written, and oral communication skills.
- Willingness to travel extensively in the region and nationally.
- Flexibility and openness to change.

How to Apply

Application review begins immediately and continues until position is filled.

Applications processed through the on-line job posting at <https://careers.nebraska.edu>.

Follow instructions to complete the Applicant Profile. Along with your application, attach a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references.

Direct questions about the position to: humanresources@nebraska.edu.

Direct questions about the on-line application process to: (402) 472-2111.

The University of Nebraska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and participates in E-Verify.