**Big news for your little ones: We’re partnering with Rooted in Relationships!**

<Community> is happy to announce that starting on <date>, we’re partnering with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s Rooted in Relationships initiative, which works with communities to implement evidence-based practices that support the social-emotional development of children from birth through age 8.

**What does that mean?**

For young children, “mental health” doesn’t mean the same as it does for adults. Rather, early childhood mental health focuses on a child’s social-emotional development, which is the growth of the child’s capacity to:

* Experience, regulate, and express emotions
* Form close and secure relationships
* Explore the environment and learn

All of these occur in the context of a caregiving environment that includes family, community, and cultural expectations.

**How does it work?**

There are three main components to the Rooted in Relationships initiative:

* **Community work**, in which stakeholders and other partners connect to assess the community’s needs and existing services for young children and their families
* **Pyramid Model implementation**, working with 9-15 childcare providers in both center and home settings to support healthy social-emotional development and reduce challenging behavior
* **Selection of a systems priority** to focus on, such as health, child welfare, etc., in which the community sees an existing gap or barrier to services for children and their families

Together with Nebraska Children and Rooted in Relationships, our community will foster healthy social-emotional development in our youngest citizens. Research shows that the interactions a child has during her earliest years are critical to future success in life, including academic learning, social competency, and lifelong well-being. Healthy, positive early relationships shape the way a child understands and approaches all relationships and social interactions for the rest of her life. And by partnering with Rooted in Relationships, our community can start our children on the right foot by making sure those early interactions are positive ones.

To learn more about Rooted in Relationships, visit [www.rootedinrelationships.org](http://www.rootedinrelationships.org) or contact your local coordinator, <Name>, at <phone number> or <email>.