

Kansas Early Childhood Systems Building Needs Assessment

Community Conversations

Talking Points for Breastfeeding Advocates:

- Age 0-1 is the most important year in a child’s development.
- 90% of families in Kansas choose to breastfeed.
- Supporting them needs to be a part of the early childhood discussion.
- Breastfeeding helps with brain development and school readiness.
- Investing in breastfeeding support reaps a large return on investment. It is one of the most effective preventative strategy we have.
- Breastfeeding families need support to continue breastfeeding – both clinical and within the systems where they work, live and play.
- Breastfeeding is an important piece of the picture for early childhood development, often overlooked as a “lifestyle” choice when really it is a public health imperative.
- Healthy babies and mothers benefit all of us.

Describe what is working well now to meet the needs of breastfeeding families in your community (hospital, health care providers, health dept., WIC, support groups, employers, child care providers, support for breastfeeding in public spaces, etc.).

Describe what is missing in the support of breastfeeding families – what do families in your community need to continue breastfeed?

“Breastfeeding is a natural ‘safety net’ against the worst effects of poverty. [...] exclusive breastfeeding goes a long way toward canceling out the health difference between being born into poverty and being born into affluence...It is almost as if breastfeeding takes the infant out of poverty for those first few months in order to give the child a fairer start in life and compensate for the injustice of the world into which it was born.” — James P. Grant, former UNICEF executive director

[List of dates and locations of Community Conversations](#)

