Northland
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Annual Report

2025

"Leading the way in Early Intervention and Education."



(816) 420-9005

www.neeckids.org

8630 N. Oak Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64155

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Who are we?

Mission:

Northland Early Education Center provides early education and therapy services for children who have special needs as well as early education for children who have typical needs, in a fully inclusive classroom environment in order for them to reach their full potential.

Vision:

Shape the future of children through quality early education and therapeutic intervention while teaching compassion for diversity.

"Leading the way in Early Intervention and Education."

Board of Directors:



Executive Officers:

President:
Jeni Schrimsher

Vice President:
Valerie Clawson

Treasurer:
Michelle Marriott

Secretary:
Amie Francois

Members:
Jessica King
Joe Kamler
Kevin Fossland



Administrative Team:

Executive Director:
Brea Connett, M.Ed.

Director of Devlopment:
Natasha Lehman

Director of Programs:
Tammy Dodd

Assistant Program Director:
Lauren Pitnick

Office Manager:
Cindy Humbird

Office Assistant:
Mary Shurtz

Accreditations and Services



Early Education

- 2 infant classrooms:
  ages birth to 12 months.
- 2 toddler classrooms: ages 12 to 24 months.
- 3 two-year-old classrooms
- 2 Preschool classrooms: ages 3-4 years
- 2 Kindergarten prep classrooms: for children the year before entering Kindergarten

Learn 4 Life

Before/After care and summer program for children Kindergarten - 5th grade with an IEP or 504 plan.

Early Intervention Therapy Services

Speech & Language Pathology
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Special Instruction
Applied Behavioral Analysis

Children Served



100% of children with special needs enrolled at NEEC who went to kindergarten, transitioned into their least restrictive environment.

100% of children with special needs receiving services in Speech and Language Pathology made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

100% of children not receiving therapeutic interventions made progress toward school readiness as outlined in the DRDP.

100% of children with special needs receiving services in Physical Therapy and Occupational therapy made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

100% of children with special needs receiving services in Special Instruction and ABA made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

Activity	Output Measure	Current Value	Target Value
Physical Therapy	Units of Service Provided	1,850	2,300
Occupational Therapy	Units of Service Provided	6,085	4,000
Speech & Language Pathology	Units of Service Provided	2,529	2,500
Special Instruction or ABA services	Units of Service Provided	2,563	2,500
Early Education	Number of Children Served	145	190

Strategic Plan

2023-2027



***Northland Early Education Center's Board of Directors, Administrative team, and staff will spend the first half of 2026 reviewing, retiring, and establishing a new 3-year strategic plan to move NEEC into the future.*

Goal 1: Establish independent, consistent funding sources that lead to long-term financial stability.

Eliminate capital debt by the end of 2027.
Increase cash reserves to equal 12 months of operating expenses by the end of 2027.
Establish an endowment by the end of 2027.

Goal 2: Provide a supportive environment that yields long-serving, highly engaged teachers, board members and volunteers.

Increase recruiting and retention of quality teachers to at least 70% annually.
Develop and implement a staff development program, which includes professional and personal development, to increase overall teacher satisfaction.
Increase board membership to 12 members and implement individual engagement plans.



Goal 3: Leverage community partnerships and parent engagement to raise the profile of NEEC as the premier school for inclusive early childhood education in the Northland.

Increase NEEC's donor retention rate to at least 45% annually.
Strengthen engagement so that NEEC families act as ambassadors in the community at large and have a 60% attendance rate at internal events.
Develop a campaign to position NEEC as the first choice for early childhood education among prospective families.

Projects Completed



Northland Early Education Center received a capital grant opportunity for 2025's funding year from the Clay County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board.

2025 Capital Grant

- Additional parking spaces.
- Upgraded to a higher-grade push bar on the front door.
- Repair drainage at the North side of the building, transplanted trees, and added landscaping around the sign on North Oak.
- Combined Program offices to add a conference area.



- Upgraded the furniture in the staff lounge.
- Replaced the printer in the administrative offices.
- Purchased more classroom chairs, industrial diaper pails, tricycles, and playground equipment for classroom use.

Fundraising Success



Texas Hold'em Tournament

The 2025 Texas Hold'em Tournament and silent auction was held at Side Pockets Kansas City North on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Through the tournament and silent auction, $1,745 was raised to further Northland Early Education Center's Mission.



The Little Gatsby; 1920s Casino Night

Northland Early Education Center returned to large event fundraising with the second Little Gatsby, 1920s Casino Night. It was an evening of music, food, gambling, and fundraising straight out of the 1920s. The Little Gatsby; 1920s Casino Night was held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at The Rumely Historic Event Space in the Kansas City West Bottoms. The event raised $18,060 through ticket sales, donations, and a silent auction.

NEEC's Excellence in Education Award Nominees and Recipient

Excellence in Education Award Recipients

Excellence in Service to Education:
Natasha Lehman - Director of Development
21 years of service at Northland Early Education Center

Excellence in Classroom Teaching:
Paula Morrow - Pink room Lead
33 years of service at Northland Early Education Center





Excellence in Education Nominees

Excellence in Classroom Teaching:
Charity Shinabarger - Silver Room Lead
Jamie Schwermer - Orange Room Lead

Excellence in Service to Education:
Cindy Humbird - Office Manager
Sheli Nelson - Kitchen Assistant

Donors



Corporate

Lou's Catering, LLC.

Individuals

Amie Francois
Knopf-Amelung Family
Terry & Paula Palmer
Donations in honor of Jacob Coffey
Zac Sobba
Michael Rhodes
Individual United Way Donors

Foundations

Clay County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board
The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties, Inc.
Harry C. Arnote Charitable Foundation
Irven E. and NeVada P. Linscomb Foundation
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Louetta M. Cowden Foundation
Mary Elizabeth Martin Scholarship

Community Partners



ddrb
clay county, mo
Developmental Disabilities Resource Board

Platte County Board of Services
Developmental Disability Resources - Since 1975

cvi
Children's Center for the Visually Impaired

futures first
NURTURING YOUNG LIVES
formerly the family conservancy

MARC
Mid-America Regional Council

Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC

Missouri First steps
EARLY INTERVENTION

Special Olympics Young Athletes

center for excellence in CHILD WELL-BEING

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