

Week of the Young Child® - April 2-8, 2022

What is Week of the Young Child®?

The Week of the Young Child® is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 52 Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The Week of the Young Child® is a time to plan how we will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Toolkit

This toolkit outlines a variety of ideas for ways that early childhood programs and other organizations can plan events that:

- promote early learning in your community
- thank teachers in your community
- influence public policy in your community, in your state, and nationally

In this package you will also find templates for proclamation requests, ideas for activities and events to hold, and information to help you and your organization celebrate children, educators, and members of your community that are dedicated to early childhood education.

Activity and Event Ideas

Celebrate Children

Early Literacy

- Developing early reading skills is crucial to children's success in school. Children who enter school with larger vocabularies start school ahead of children who have not been exposed to enriching language environments. Reach out and help children get the early literacy foundation they need to succeed in school.
- Organize a children's book festival to celebrate reading. Children and families can dress as their favorite book characters. Businesses or organizations might provide free books to children. Local celebrities or public officials can read stories.

Involving Families

- Create a children's art exhibit or gallery in your community at a local museum, mall, or business to show off children's artwork. Businesses or organizations might offer prizes or ribbons for the art.
- Partner with other events or organizations to offer children's activities at an event or to bring parents and children together to do activities. One example of an event to bring families together is *Touch-A-Truck*.
- Celebrate the Month of the Young Child. Designate a focus for each week, including themes such as Celebrating Community Partnerships; Promoting Healthy Children and Families; Recognizing Early Childhood Professionals; and Advocating on Behalf of Children and Families.

Thank Teachers and Educators

- Plan a community-wide early childhood professionals' recognition dinner. Ask directors and principals to identify teachers and caregivers who have made a difference in children's literacy development. Give those teachers special recognition and ask them to share their successful strategies.
- Plan a thank you breakfast or lunch for the teachers. Ask parents and families to participate. Have the children draw pictures and write notes to their teachers.
- Send letters to early childhood programs, thanking the teachers for all they do. Offer to display children's artwork in your offices.
- Take out an ad in a local newspaper to thank all early childhood educators.

Public Policy and Advocacy

- Ask the mayor to issue a proclamation for Month of the Young Child or Week of the Young Child®. Invite elected officials to kick-off the Month of the Young Child event by reading the proclamation. Use the public appearance of elected officials as an opportunity to speak about specific initiatives and to thank them for their past support.
- Submit radio blurbs, editorial letters, newspaper ads, or press releases to local businesses and media to promote Month of the Young Child or Week of the Young Child® and raise awareness to the importance of Early Childhood Education.

Daily Themes

Kick-off Saturday-April 2nd, 2022

Here are list of things you can do to plan for the week of celebrations!

- Post a video, blog or social media post sharing why you celebrate Week of the Young Child and what you do to prepare
- Plan a virtual event with your social media community
- Share your local [proclamation](#)
- Take some time for yourself and re-energize so that you're ready for the week ahead
- Create a dancing playlist for **Music Monday**
- Gather ingredients from your kitchen for a **Tasty Tuesday** activity
- For **Work Together Wednesday**, work with other educators in your program to draft a group letter to your elected officials, emphasizing the need to #InvestinECE
- Replenish your arts and crafts supply for **Artsy Thursday**
- Draft an email to parents explaining what they should expect during the week and how they can prepare for your **Family Friday** activity

Music Monday-April 4th, 2022

Music Monday is more than singing and dancing, it's a way to encourage children to be active while developing their early literacy skills and having fun with friends and family! Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own and share it on social media using the #WOYC22 hashtag!

Tasty Tuesday-April 5th, 2022

Tasty Tuesday isn't just about eating your favorite snacks together. It's also about cooking together and connecting math with literacy skills and science while introducing ways to incorporate healthy habits into children's lifestyles. Create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations on social media using the #WOYC22 hashtag!

Work Together Wednesday-April 6th, 2022

When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material-from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home. Build and share pictures of children's creations on social media using the #WOYC22 hashtag

Artsy Thursday-April 7th, 2022

Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects that let them make choices, use their imaginations and create with their hands. Think, problem solve, create! On Artsy Thursday, celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making. Use any materials-from crayons to paint, clay to crafts! Create and share photos of creations on social media using #WOYC22!

Family Friday-April 8th, 2022

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. We applaud family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories about your families on social media using the #WOYC22 hashtag.

Resources and FAQs

- <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event>
- <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/faq>
- [America for Early Ed + WOYC toolkit](#)
- [America for Early Ed + WOYC proclamation guide](#)

Week of the Young Child Proclamation Template

- Whereas,** The **[insert name of chapter]** Region of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child April 2nd-8th, 2022 ; and
- Whereas,** these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, which are crucial to the growth and development of young children, and to building better futures for everyone in Indiana; and
- Whereas,** the positive impacts of quality early childhood education and care are well documented for young children and their families; and
- Whereas,** It is important to recognize and support the people, programs, and policies committed to high-quality early childhood education and care;
- Now, Therefore,** I, **[name of mayor/city county council member]**, **[position]** of **[name of town/city]**, do hereby proclaim April 2nd-8th, 2022 as Week of the Young Child in **[name of town/city]** and encourage all citizens to duly note this occasion.
- In testimony whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of **[name of town/city]** on this first day of April in the year 2022.

Signature

[Typed name of official issuing proclamation]

[Typed title of official issuing proclamation]

Month of the Young Child Proclamation Template

- Whereas,** The **[insert name of chapter]** Region of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Month of the Young Child throughout April ; and
- Whereas,** these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, which are crucial to the growth and development of young children, and to building better futures for everyone in Indiana; and
- Whereas,** the positive impacts of quality early childhood education and care are well documented for young children and their families; and
- Whereas,** It is important to recognize and support the people, programs, and policies committed to high-quality early childhood education and care;
- Now, Therefore,** I, **[name of mayor/city county council member]**, **[position]** of **[name of town/city]**, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as Month of the Young Child in **[name of town/city]** and encourage all citizens to duly note this occasion.
- In testimony whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of **[name of town/city]** on this first day of April in the year 2022.

Signature

[Typed name of official issuing proclamation]

[Typed title of official issuing proclamation]