



National Week of the Young Child Proclamation

Whereas, Mesa Community College, along with First Things First, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Week of the Young Child so that we can continue to recognize and advance the early childhood education profession.

Whereas the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; and young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent and compensated early childhood education; and

Whereas parents are the first teachers of young children; and families need a strong regulatory structure to give them peace of mind that their children are safe in high quality early care and education settings; and

Whereas participation in high-quality early care and education can help ameliorate the effects of poverty, detect and remediate delays, identify and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive outcomes for individual children, helping them be better prepared for school and more likely to succeed in life; and early childhood educators need opportunities to acquire critical skills, knowledge, and competencies through pathways to credentials and higher education degrees, without incurring college debt; and

Whereas high-quality early childhood education depends on trained and qualified early childhood educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation.

Now, therefore, I, Lori M. Berquam, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Interim President of Mesa Community College, Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2021 as the:

WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD

and encourage all members of our community to support efforts that increase children and families' access to high-quality early childhood education.

Dr. Lori M. Berquam
Interim President
Mesa Community College

