



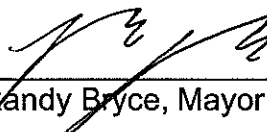
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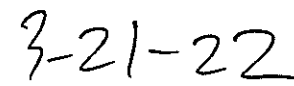
**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)  
Week of the Young Child  
Proclamation - Thatcher, AZ**

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- WHEREAS, All young children deserve quality early learning environments that support them as capable and competent lifelong learners; and
- WHEREAS, Nurturing parenting, quality and accessible child care, and early education programs build strong brains during the critical years from birth to age 5; and
- WHEREAS, Investments in babies and young children has profound impacts on creating a strong and vibrant community; and
- WHEREAS, First Things First, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, and other community organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the 51st anniversary of the Week of the Young Child; and
- WHEREAS, These organizations are working to improve equitable early learning opportunities that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Thatcher, and
- WHEREAS, Early childhood educators and others who make a difference in the lives of young children deserve thanks, recognition, and support; and
- WHEREAS, Public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to Arizona's families, communities, and economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Randy Bryce, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2022 as the Week of the Young Child in Thatcher, Arizona and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early childhood education in our community.

  
Randy Bryce, Mayor

  
Date

Week of the Young Child – Thatcher Town Council

Mayor Bryce, Members of the Council, my name is Nette Griffin, and this is Shari Elkins. We are here representing First Things First, which is Arizona's Early Childhood Agency. We have brought along with us friends from the community who are committed to the young children in our community (Recognize Council Members – Elizabeth Henley Safford Library – Preschool and Kindergarten teachers) It is a privilege for all us to be here with you this evening as YOU recognize the importance of Thatcher's youngest citizens. We know that 90% of a child's brain growth happens between birth and age 5, when they land on the door at kindergarten, so it is critical for our little ones to have access to quality early learning experiences in their homes and in their communities.

Early Childhood students  
EAC  
K teachers  
Jack Daley  
Primary  
Susan

The purpose for the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of our young children and their families, while recognizing that the early years lay a foundation for success in school, and later in life. It is also to recognize and pay tribute to these amazing, hard-working, early childhood professionals who give so much to help each child in our community be healthy and ready to learn by the time they arrive at Kindergarten.

Susan

I brought along some information about First Things First and early childhood for each of you, and along with it is a Children's book. I would issue a challenge to each of you in the coming month to find a child and read them a story. If you can't find a child in your neighborhood, I bet Elizabeth would always welcome a guest reader for story time at the library!

We appreciate the opportunity to be here with you this evening, and your willingness to proclaim the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> the Week of the Young Child here in the Town of Thatcher.

I would be happy to entertain any questions from the Council, and then I will turn the time over to Mayor Bryce for the Reading of the Proclamation.

Jack Schnebly