**NAEYC Week of the Young Child**

**Proclamation Template - Regional Officials/FTF Regional Partnership Councils**

*Please download this template to your desktop or copy and paste the below information into a new Word Doc. Then, submit the separate Word Doc for proclamation requests.*

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* WHEREAS, All of Arizona’s children deserve quality early care and education (ECE) environments; and
* WHEREAS, Access to quality, nurturing child care programs set a positive foundation for children’s lifelong development during the critical years from birth to age five; and
* WHEREAS, Supporting quality early learning and children’s health programs is a smart investment that improves family well-being, strengthens communities, and grows our state’s prosperity; and
* WHEREAS, First Things First, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, Southern 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 53rd anniversary of the Week of the Young Child; and
* WHEREAS, These organizations are working to improve equitable early childhood opportunities that provide a strong start for children in [CITY OR REGION]; and
* WHEREAS, The child care workforce, early childhood educators, and others who care for and teach young children deserve to be recognized and supported for their essential work; and
* WHEREAS, Public policies that support affordable, accessible, quality child care for all young children benefit our families, communities, and the state’s economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [INSERT NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL, COUNCIL NAME, COUNCIL CHAIR, ETC.], do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2024 as the Week of the Young Child in [CITY OR REGION], Arizona and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early childhood education in our community.