## PROCLAMATION

Whereas, All of Arizona's children deserve access to quality early care and education (ECE) environments; and,

Whereas, Quality child care programs build children's lifelong learning skills during the critical years from birth to age five; and,

Whereas, ECE teachers and child care providers are the essential workforce that helps Arizona parents get to work or school; and,

Whereas, Funding quality child care 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 Payson, Arizona, Gila County; and,

WHEREAS, Public policies that support ECE for Arizona's youngest learners help our families, communities, and the economy thrive:

NOW THEREFORE I, CHRIS HIGGINS, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:

April 6 - 12 2024

## AS THE

## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in Payson, Arizona and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early care and education in our community.

**IN WITNESS THERETO,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Payson, Arizona, to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

Chris Higgins, Mayor

Tracie Bailey, Town Clerk