## 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<br/>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 wellbeing, 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 54th 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 Tempe; and
- WHEREAS,Public policies that support ECE for Arizona's youngest learners help our<br/>families, communities, and the economy thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Corey Woods, Mayor of the City of Tempe, Arizona, do hereby declare:

