



**First Things First, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children,
Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Week of the Young Child 2025 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 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 Safford, Arizona; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Ortega, do hereby proclaim April 5-11, 2025, as the Week of the Young Child in Safford, Arizona, and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early care and education in our community.

ADOPTED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

Richard Ortega, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beatrice Driver, CMC, City Clerk

