

**County of Santa Barbara California
Resolution Proclaiming April 10-16, 2021
Week of the Young Child in Santa Barbara County**

In partnership with



WHEREAS, The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated the essential role early care and education plays in our community

WHEREAS, Early care and education professionals have been nimble and responsive to the needs of families, keeping their doors open at great personal and professional cost



WHEREAS, Children’s cognitive, physical, social and emotional development, as well as language and literacy skills are built on a foundation of children’s positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment

WHEREAS, Participation in high quality early care and education and school-age care makes working families more economically secure and prepares children to succeed in school and live healthier lives.

WHEREAS, It is documented that the entire community garners social and economic benefits when high quality early care and education programs are available and affordable, thereby serving more children and families of Santa Barbara County

WHEREAS, The need for care in Santa Barbara County has increased significantly since 2015, yet there continues to be a critical shortage of licensed spaces

WHEREAS, Instead of returning to levels as prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, we now have the opportunity to build greater capacity for high quality programs

AND WHEREAS WE CELEBRATE, The 50th Anniversary of the Week of the Young Child® so that we may continue to recognize the essential nature of the early child care and education professionals with the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council, First 5 Santa Barbara County, and many other local organizations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims April 10-16, 2021 as Week of the Young Child and does hereby recognize and celebrate the complex, valuable, essential, and demanding work of early care and education and school-age care professionals.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this April 6, 2021, by unanimous vote of all members present.

Week of the Young Child

April 10-16, 2021

50th Anniversary



Week of the Young Child® is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early care and education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 51 Affiliates.

The purpose of Week of the Young Child® is to express support for early care and education professionals and focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. It also serves to recognize the early care and education programs that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child® in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. Week of the Young Child® is a time to commit to how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

We now know more than ever about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing, which is the responsibility of the entire community.

In 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted the critical need for early care and education professionals to be regarded as essential workers. Without child care, businesses were unable to open and parents were unable to work, with few exceptions.

Early care and education is a critical concern for children, parents, employers, and communities as a whole. Extensive longitudinal research reports the positive outcomes for children participating in high quality early care and education programs, including improved school performance, decreased need for special education, increased high school graduation rates, decreased crime rates, and increased earnings in adulthood. These findings are found to be magnified for children of families at the lowest income levels.