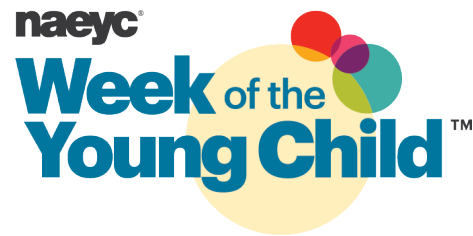


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**Governor signs proclamation for the Week of the Young Child™**

DES MOINES, IA – The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) asks Iowans to acknowledge this year’s (April 2-8, 2022) Week of the Young Child™ (WOYC). As part of the National WOYC celebration, Iowa honors young children and all those who make a difference in children’s lives.

“There is no better way to make Iowa ready for the future than investing in quality early care and education for our youngest Iowans,” said Jillian Herink, Executive Director of Iowa AEYC.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed the Proclamation naming April 2-8, 2022 as Iowa’s WOYC, at her office at the Capitol today, March 22 at 11:30 am. Early childhood leaders and advocates gathered to support this recognition.

The WOYC is an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of WOYC is to focus public attention on the importance of high-quality early care and education and the critical role early childhood educators play in a child’s development and learning.

The NAEYC first established the WOYC in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children’s success in school and later in life.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which provides children with a great start in life and brings lasting benefits to Iowa.

The WOYC is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and to celebrate the early care and education workforce and the policies that bring quality early care and education experiences to young children.



**\*\*Photo of Governor's WOYC 2022 Proclamation Signing\*\***

**###**

Iowa AEYC has over 1100 members and represents an early care and education workforce of more than 30,000 professionals across the state.

*Iowa AEYC is an Affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), founded in 1926, is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early care and education for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. NAEYC advances a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and supports all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.*