

WHEREAS; the first five years of a child’s life are some of the most critical for brain development, laying the foundation for future learning, health, well-being, growth, and overall success; and

WHEREAS; celebrated nationwide since 1971, Week of the Young Child presents an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of early care and education during this critical development period in a kid’s life; and

WHEREAS; equitable access to high-quality early care and education is essential to kids’ long-term social and emotional development, helping to mitigate the effects of poverty, detect and remediate learning delays, identify and prevent child neglect, and facilitate overall positive educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS; high-quality early childhood education depends on the knowledge and expertise of early childhood educators who ensure kids have the foundational experiences they need to be prepared for elementary, middle, and high school; and

WHEREAS; addressing challenges in the early care and education community is a priority for the state, as Wisconsin’s workforce and economy can’t afford parents leaving their jobs because they can’t find or afford care close to home and early childhood educators deserve the support they need to hire staff, pay a living wage, reduce waitlists, and lower the cost of child care for hardworking Wisconsin families; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin’s economic growth depends on the ability of families to find and maintain access to quality, affordable child care so they can be reliable and effective employees, which is why, during 2025 as the Year of the Kid, the state will continue to support and advance meaningful efforts to bolster the long-term strength of this valuable industry, including efforts to help lower the cost of child care for working families, ensure child care providers can recruit and retain dedicated workers, and make child care more accessible by filling available slots and preventing further child care closures; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins state leaders, agencies, dedicated organizations, educators, child care professionals, and community partners in affirming its commitment to investing in the success of the state’s early childhood systems and providing the strongest possible start for the state’s youngest children through high-quality early learning opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 5 through 11 2025 as

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 27th day of March 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State