

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, the Week of the Young Child presents an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of early care and education during this critical development period in kids’ lives; 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 child 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, which is why last year, during 2025 the Year of the Kid, the state continued 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 in 2026, the state maintains a strong commitment to these efforts; 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 11 through 17 2026 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 10th day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State