

WHEREAS; the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development, laying the foundation for all future learning; 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 time in a child's life; and

WHEREAS; high quality early care and education are essential and help to mitigate the effects of poverty, detect and remediate delays, identify and prevent child neglect, and facilitate overall positive outcomes for Wisconsin's kids; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that high quality early childhood education depends on high quality early childhood educators who ensure that kids, supported by their families, have the early experiences they need to be better prepared for school and more likely to succeed later in life; and

WHEREAS; young kids need skilled, experienced, and fairly compensated early childhood educators, early childhood educators need to earn a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to their complex and valuable work, and working families need a strong regulatory structure to provide peace of mind that their children are safe in their early care and education settings; and

WHEREAS; a lack of equitable child care access and quality early childhood education options across our state is having fundamentally negative impacts on Wisconsin's kids and families, its workforce, and its economy, which is why Wisconsin invested \$131.5 million of new federal funds in the child care industry over the past year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and why the Badger Bounceback 2021-23 budget proposal includes a \$140 million initiative designed to address quality, affordability, access, and equity for providers and children in both subsidized and unsubsidized child care programs; and

WHEREAS; this week, as we recognize the 50th anniversary celebration of Week of the Young Child, the state of Wisconsin joins state leaders, agencies, dedicated organizations, and community partners in affirming our commitment to invest comprehensively in our early childhood systems and to ensure that all kids and families have equitable opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 10 through 16, 2021, 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 24th day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State