

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the first years of a child’s life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; and,

WHEREAS, young children need developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available early care and education settings with skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood educators; and,

WHEREAS, participation in high–quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of one year of child care for an infant in Missouri averages \$9,880 and \$6,849 for a four–year old. These costs often exceed the cost of a year of college tuition and are mostly borne by parents, who often cannot afford it; and,

WHEREAS, working families need quality early childhood education systems, a strong regulatory structure for peace of mind their children are safe and in high quality early care and education settings. They also need subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for all income levels that support the true cost of quality early childhood education; and,

WHEREAS, early childhood educators need to earn a family–sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills for the valuable work they do; have basic workplace benefits such as health insurance, retirement, paid sick leave, paid vacation, and professional development leave; and,

WHEREAS, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Week of the Young Child to continue to bring awareness and recognition to the importance of the early childhood education profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William A. Baird, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, do hereby proclaim April 10 – 16, 2021 as

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, this day of April 2021.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD