



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties, in conjunction with the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), are celebrating the **Week of the Young Child™, April 6-12, 2024**; and

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

**WHEREAS**, high quality early childhood programs provide important benefits to children, families and our state and national economies; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality childhood education depends on high-quality early childhood educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, tuition from fee-paying parents and subsidy rates for families with low income are typically insufficient to afford highly qualified, consistent early childhood educators and pay for low child-to-early educator ratios that ensure health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, families at all income levels need robust subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits that support the true cost of quality early childhood education.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia, here by recognizes the week of April 6 – 12, 2024 as

## **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

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Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk