

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** The first five years of a child's life are the most consequential for human development including the formation of attachment, language development, early literacy, and rapid brain growth to lay the foundation for all future learning; and
- WHEREAS:** Investments in young children have profound impacts on creating thriving and inclusive communities, the future of our state depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to families of young children; high quality culturally appropriate, and family-centered services help children to get a strong start in life which provide lasting positive benefits for their communities, and economies; and
- WHEREAS:** All young children, in every zipcode, deserve quality early learning environments; and parents and caregivers of young children need to be able to find and afford quality child care programs, provided by a workforce that reflect a rich diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural identities; and
- WHEREAS:** Early childhood educators make a positive difference in the lives of young children and their families and deserve our thanks, recognition, and support; and
- WHEREAS:** As we mark the 55th year celebrating the Week of the Young Child (WOYC), the Department of Early Learning and Care, in conjunction with the Early Learning Council, the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, the Early Childhood Coalition and the National Association for the Education of Young Children are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 11-17, 2026.
- NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim April 11th-17th to be

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day March 26, 2026.



Handwritten signature of Tina Kotek in black ink.

Tina Kotek, Governor

Handwritten signature of Tobias Read in black ink.

Tobias Read, Secretary of State