

WHEREAS, the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 5 - 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are working to improve early care and education opportunities that provide a foundation of learning for all children in SantaRosa, California; and

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, 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, many early childhood educators earn poverty–level wages and do not have basic workplace benefits, such as health insurance and paid sick leave. 45 percent of family child care providers and 50 percent of child care center teachers and assistants in Sonoma County used at least one form of public support—most often Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood educators; and

WHEREAS, working families need sufficient accessible and affordable high quality child care spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community; and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators need the ability to earn a professional wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do.

NOW, THEREFORE, MAY IT BE RESOLVED, that I, Mark Stapp, Mayor of the city of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, in recognition of our community, hereby proclaims April 5 - 11 as

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Mayor Mark Stapp
April 15, 2025