



Pinal Region

March 8, 2018

Dear Mayor Thompson and City Council Members,

On behalf of First Things First, I am writing to request your proclamation of April 16-20, 2018, as The Week of the Young Child in Coolidge.

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at child care, at school, and in the community—that will promote their early learning.

Locally, this year's Week of the Young Child events are being planned and organized in Coolidge, San Manuel, Eloy, and Casa Grande by members of the Pinal County Early Childhood Coalition (PCECC). The PCECC is comprised of representatives from agencies who work with young children and their families. The events are also being supported by First Things First, a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten.

In recognition of the growing importance of early childhood development and health, we ask that the City of Coolidge issue a proclamation for the Week of the Young Child, April 16-20, 2018. We would be particularly honored to have you present this proclamation at your one of your upcoming Council meetings in late March or early April.

I've attached a sample of language that might be helpful in drafting a proclamation. We look forward to working with your office on this important endeavor and representing the city of Coolidge and state in this important movement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beverly

Beverly Gomez Arriaga
Parent Awareness & Community Outreach Coordinator
First Things First, Pinal Region

Enclosures: Proclamation Draft