



Week of the Young Child

## Celebrate the Week of the Young Child

*“Building Better Futures for All Children”*

How can we make sure that infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are on track for bright futures? **The Week of the Young Child**, held April 2-9, 2006, is an annual observance that focuses on the needs and available resources to support young children in their learning environments. Research has proven that positive interactions between young children and their parents and caregivers provide a road map to a child’s healthy development and growth. Because families and caregivers both play such a vital role, they are also recognized during **The Week of the Young Child**.

Although the dates and theme for this annual observance are designated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, local events are planned and implemented by community organizations at the local level. Here in North Carolina, our state recognizes the critical link between quality child care and the positive development of young children. Thus, in 1999, North Carolina implemented the five star rated license for child care facilities - both child care centers and family child homes. The rating system is a guide to levels of quality in child care settings. For parents seeking more information on locating a child care facility, go to the Division’s [Facility Search Site](#). To learn more about how you and your community can celebrate and observe the Week of the Young Child, go to <http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/>. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the proclamation Governor Michael F. Easley issued proclaiming April 2-8, 2006, as **The Week of the Young Child**.

### **Important Links for Parents and Child Care Providers**

**[Zero to Three: The Nation’s Leading Resource on the First Years of Life.](#)**

This web site provides extensive information on early brain development and a listing of parenting topics.

### **[NC Smart Start](#)**

This web site provides a wealth of information about child development issues, child care, early brain development, school readiness, and others.

### **[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)**

The “Parenting Corner” link on this web site provides information on a number of issues such as immunizations, product safety, injury prevention, etc.

## **Important Links for Researchers**

### **Data and Reports:**

**[Children’s Defense Fund](#)**

**[Annie E. Casey Foundation – Kids Count Reports](#)**

**[National Child Care Information Center](#)**