

America for Early Ed + Week of the Young Child

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, it hasn't changed the need to celebrate and support children and the adults who love, care for, and educate them. With this [America for Early Ed](#) mini-toolkit, we encourage you to take time during #woyc20 to lift up your advocacy voice on behalf of the children, families, and educators across the country, and in your community!

APRIL 13: MUSIC MONDAY!

SING, DANCE, CELEBRATE, AND LEARN

Music Monday is more than singing and dancing, it's a way to encourage children to be active while developing their early literacy skills and having fun with friends and family - even when they can't be with them in person! Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own, and share it using the hashtag #woyc20.



LEARN

Your voice is powerful, whether you're singing with children or speaking out on their behalf. Check out what happened when 427 advocates came together from February 23 - 25, 2020 for the largest-ever [NAEYC Public Policy Forum](#) to lend their voices to important issues affecting young children, families, and early childhood educators (and [consider joining us in the future!](#))



ACT

Make sure your state and local elected officials are all singing from the same songbook! Join the chorus for change and work with [your states' Affiliates](#) and advocates to help policymakers sign state and local proclamations that honor and advance the *essential* early childhood education profession as part of the WOYC™. Together, you can [create the plan for your proclamation](#), including working through the process of how to request a proclamation from your elected officials. Don't forget to hit that last note, by [putting your proclamation on the map!](#)



SHARE

Make sure you share pictures on social media of your virtual workgroups collaborating to get proclamations signed and of the signed proclamations themselves! Put your elected officials' Twitter handles into your tweets, and thank them for being champions and supporters of early childhood education and educators at this crucial time.

Need inspiration?

See what NAEYC's affiliate leaders and partners did in 2019 to [move beyond "thanks and recognition."](#)

If you don't have proclamations to share, you can use these sample social media posts instead:



I'm joining the chorus for change to advance the #earlychildhood education profession! The time is NOW for elected officials to value, support, and compensate early childhood educators for the complex and important work they do!
#PowerToTheProfession #woyc20



I'm celebrating Music Monday by joining the chorus for change to advance the early childhood education profession! We are past the point where elected officials must value, support, and compensate early childhood educators for the complex and important work they do!
#PowerToTheProfession #woyc20

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APRIL 14: TASTY TUESDAY

BE INFORMED + BE PREPARED + MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Tasty Tuesday isn't just about eating your favorite snacks together-while-apart. It's also about cooking together and connecting math with literacy skills and science while introducing ways to incorporate healthy habits into children's lifestyles. Create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations using the hashtag #woyc20.



LEARN

Elected officials at all levels of government have the ability to enact policies that protect and support child nutrition programs and improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Learn more about [what food hardship and hunger looks like in America](#) and what is needed to tackle the difficult reality that 37 million Americans live in households that struggle against hunger and nearly 1 in 7 households with children cannot afford to buy enough food for their families.



ACT

Together, we can create a better future with our votes, advocacy, and support. However, you can't make your voice heard at the polls if you are not registered to vote or if your voter registration is not up to date. During this time when many of us are at home, take a moment to [check your voter registration](#) and encourage others to do the same. Then, [sign the America for Early Ed Pledge to Vote](#) because our votes will impact their futures!



SHARE



This #TastyTuesday, I'm making sure I have the secret ingredient so that my voice can be heard come election time: an updated and active voter registration! You too can register and pledge to [#vote: americaforearlyed.org/ourvotes #woyc2020](#)



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APRIL 15: WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

LEARN TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, BUILD TOGETHER

When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material—from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home. Build and share pictures of children's creations using the #woyc20 hashtag.



LEARN

In 2018, Congress worked together to pass a bipartisan spending bill that included [a historic increase for child care](#). However, in light of the [devastating effects the coronavirus is having on child care](#), we need Congress to once again work together to provide [emergency stimulus funding to keep the child care industry from collapsing](#).



ACT

Together, we can help our policymakers understand what's happening in child care and early learning. Pick up your phone and [contact your members of Congress](#) to tell them to increase the emergency stimulus funding for child care. Here is a script you can use:

The scale, scope, and urgency of this crisis is becoming increasingly clear. As an essential service and to ensure that a recovery is possible when we need people to go back to work, the child care industry needs substantial, dedicated emergency support to serve children of essential workers now, and to stave off widespread, permanent closures in the immediate future. Thank you for supporting children, families, the child care industry and our country!



SHARE



When Congress invests in #earlyed and #childcare, we all win! #Congress, we need you to #FundChildCare to help us survive the devastating blow #COVID-19 is having on our industry. We're all counting on you! #woyc20 [Use [this image](#) with your post.]



When Congress invests in child care and early learning, we all benefit. Congress, we need you to #FundChildCare to help us survive the devastating blow #COVID-19 is having on our children, families, educators, and communities.. We're all counting on you! #woyc20 [Use [this image](#) with your post.]

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APRIL 16: ARTSY THURSDAY

THINK, CREATE, PROBLEM SOLVE

Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. On Artsy Thursday celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making. Use any materials—from crayons to paint, clay to crafts! Create and share a photos of your children's creations on NAEYC's Facebook page or Twitter using the #woyc20 hashtag.



LEARN

Child care programs across the country have closed in order to save lives and do their part to flatten the curve of the spread of the coronavirus. While the [coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the child care industry](#), early childhood educators have found creative alternatives, including the creation of videos, to share [tools and resources](#) to continue supporting young children and their families in these uncertain and complex times.



ACT

It's time to put those video making skills to the test! Record a short video telling your Congressional leaders why child care needs significant public investment if it is going to survive.. Use our [Making Videos at Home: Tips for Educators](#) guide to help you get started. Once you've got a clip you're proud of, [look up the social media handles for your members of Congress](#), and use the sample social media posts below to tag and share your video with them!



SHARE



Young children in my #earlylearning program often create masterpieces to share with their families. But, today I'm the one getting creative with this special message asking Congress to #FundChildCare and paint a brighter future for children and families! #woyc



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APRIL 17: FAMILY FRIDAY

COUNTING ALL FAMILIES

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories on NAEYC's Facebook page or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc20 as we celebrate the unique role families play in their children's learning and development.



LEARN

Did you know that [children under 5 years of age are at the greatest risk of being undercounted in the 2020 Census](#) and that over 2.2 million young children were missed in the last U.S. Census? While [early childhood educators have an important role to play in the 2020 Census](#), it is critical for families to #CountAllKids and babies when completing the census. By counting your family in the 2020 Census, you are doing your part to ensure the \$800 billion a year in federal funding that goes towards important supports like medical services, WIC, child care, public schools, public transit, and low-income housing, is fairly distributed.



ACT

Take 10 minutes to complete the 2020 Census! You have three easy and confidential options to make sure your family is counted:

1. You can [fill out the form that was mailed to you](#).
2. You can [complete the form online](#) in 13 different languages; or
3. You can [call to complete the census](#) over the phone in 13 different languages.

Regardless of what option you choose, make sure you get counted!



SHARE



This #FamilyFriday, I'm spending 10 mins completing the #2020Census with my family and so that schools and #childcare programs in my community receive the funding they need. Join me by visiting 2020census.gov! P.S. Remember to #ThinkBabies & #CountAllKids! #woyc2020 [Use any of the [social media images found here](#) with your post.]



This #FamilyFriday, I'm spending 10 minutes completing the #2020Census so that my family and the schools and child care, child health, and nutrition programs in my community receive the funding they need. Join me by visiting 2020census.gov! P.S. Remember to #ThinkBabies & #CountAllKids when completing the census! #woyc2020 [Use any of the [social media images found here](#) with your post.]