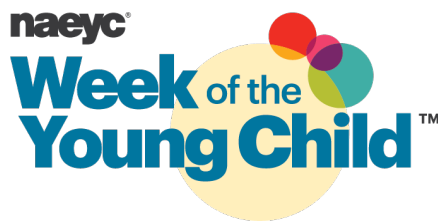




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April Parenting Tip of the Month... **Week of the Young Child**



In 1971, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) established the Week of the Young Child to recognize children's early experiences from birth through age 8 as the foundation for their future success in school and life. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the importance of the early childhood years and the

child care programs that support young children. This year's annual Week of the Young Child celebration is April 16 - 20.

The early years of a child's life are important because they effect a child's learning and social-emotional development. Children are born ready to learn and the first three years are the most sensitive time for the development and shaping of their brain's architecture. According to the Zero to Three website, children are producing 700 new neural connections every second in response to their experiences during this time. These connections effect how children think, learn, manage their feelings and build relationships with others.

To help families and early childhood programs celebrate Week of the Young Child, NAEYC has picked themes for each day of the week that promote young children's learning:

- Music Monday
- Tasty Tuesday
- Work Together Wednesday
- Artsy Thursday
- Family Friday



Visit their website, <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview>, for activities and resources on how you can celebrate each day with your child.

Some Kansas communities are planning special activities for children and their families this month. Check with your local library or on community calendars to learn what is available in your area.

By being involved in a variety of activities with your child, you are helping to build healthy brain connections for future success!

Sources:

National Association for the Education of Young Children website, <http://www.naeyc.org/>
Zero to Three website, <https://www.zerotothree.org/early-development/brain-development>

Looking for child care or parent resources?
*Don't forget to contact our Parent Resource Center at 785-357-5171,
877-678-2548 toll free, and select option 1!*



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Visit our website at east.ks.childcareaware.org.

