



The High Plains Chapter of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children asks Imperial to come together for children during the Week of the Young Child, April 22-28.

As part of the national Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives are honored.

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and Imperial has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children," said Marisa Kunnemann, a member of the High Plains Chapter of the NeAEYC.

"Week of the Young Child is a time for Imperial to recognize that "early years are learning years" for all young children," she said.

Week of the Young Child is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country, including child care and Head Start programs, preschools and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children. When you see groups of young children chalking the sidewalks, blowing bubbles, or playing outside take the opportunity to stop and talk to them.

Several local programs have reading activities worked into their plans for Week of the Young Child.

Rainbow Promise is sponsoring Hamburger Night at the United Methodist Church on Wednesday, April 25, from 5-7 pm.

An Early Learning Guidelines class on Social & Emotional Development is being held at Zion Lutheran Church/Little Longhorns on Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost for this class is \$15. Call Deb Frates, ESU 16 at 308-284-8481 by April 23 to register. This class is open to all early childhood providers, teachers, para-educators and parents.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which help children get a great start and bring lasting benefits to our community. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and improve literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

The High Plains Chapter of the NeAEYC is a group of early childhood professionals in southwest Nebraska working together to improve professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education, and to build public support for high-quality early childhood education programs.

The High Plains Chapter of the NeAEYC is an Affiliate of NAEYC, the largest organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of early education programs for children birth through age eight.

Founded in 1926, NAEYC has nearly 80,000 members and a national network of more than 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates. For more information about NAEYC, contact Marisa Kunnemann at 882-4818.

Mayor Dwight Coleman signed a proclamation this week noting Week of the Young Child. The proclamation reads:

Proclamation

Whereas, the High Plains Chapter of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young

Children and local child care providers and preschools, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 22-28, 2012; and

Whereas, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Imperial, Neb.; and

Whereas, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Imperial, Neb. deserve thanks and recognition; and

Whereas, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures;

I, Dwight Coleman, Mayor of Imperial, Neb., do hereby proclaim April 22-28, 2012, as Week of the Young Child in Imperial, Neb. and encourage all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in Imperial, Neb.