

P.L. 2023, Joint Resolution No. 2, *approved March 13, 2023*
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 171 (*First Reprint*)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the first full week
2 in April as the “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Learning and development are shaped by the earliest
5 years of a child’s life; and
6 **WHEREAS**, The State’s future depends on the high-quality early
7 childhood experiences provided to young children today,
8 preparing them for school success and brighter outcomes; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education
10 services represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future
11 by preparing them to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and
12 live healthier lives; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education
14 services also makes working families more economically secure
15 by reducing child-care costs, thereby saving taxpayer dollars that
16 would otherwise go to child care assistance programs dedicated
17 to low-income families; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Working families need a mixed-delivery early
19 childhood education system where the quality of services is not
20 ¹**【comprised】** compromised¹ by economic factors or lack of
21 accessibility when selecting child care arrangements that best
22 meet the needs of their family; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The State’s early childhood education workforce needs
24 skilled, qualified, and adequately compensated early childhood
25 educators who reflect a diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural
26 identities, and provide children and families of this State with
27 developmentally appropriate child care services in educational
28 settings that are both accessible and affordable; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey needs to provide robust
30 subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income
31 levels to help alleviate the true cost of high-quality early
32 childhood education; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The Week of the Young Child ¹**【(WOYC)】**¹ is a week-
34 long celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of
35 young children and their families, recognizes the programs and
36 services that meet those needs, and coordinates music, food, and
37 art activities to help develop children’s math, literacy, and motor
38 skills; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted January 23, 2023.

1 **WHEREAS**, The National Association for the Education of Young
 2 Children (NAEYC), in partnership with state and local
 3 organizations, early childhood professionals, and families and
 4 children, are celebrating ¹the of¹ the ¹WOYC April 2 through
 5 April 8, 2022¹ Week of the Young Child April 1 through April
 6 7, 2023¹; and

7 **WHEREAS**, By calling attention to the need for high-quality early
 8 childhood education services for all children and families within
 9 the State of New Jersey, the NAEYC and its partners groups
 10 hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; and

11 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate the first week in
 12 April as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New
 13 Jersey to recognize the importance of high-quality early
 14 childhood education that is affordable and accessible and
 15 advance the child care and early childhood education
 16 professions; now, therefore,

17
 18 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
 19 *State of New Jersey:*

20
 21 1. The first full week in April shall be permanently designated
 22 as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New Jersey to
 23 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education
 24 that is affordable and accessible and to advance the child care and
 25 early childhood education professions.

26
 27 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
 28 proclamation recognizing the first full week in April as the “Week
 29 of the Young Child” in New Jersey and calling upon public
 30 officials, the citizens of the State, and other interested groups to
 31 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

32
 33 ¹3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of
 34 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
 35 the Secretary of the Senate to the New Jersey Association for the
 36 Education of Young Children.¹

37
 38 ¹4. ¹3. ¹This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

39
 40
 41
 42
 43 _____
 44 Permanently designates first full week in April as “Week of the
 Young Child” in New Jersey.