

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 16–20, 2018!

What is the Week of the Young Child™?

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 50 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Who coordinates the Week of the Young Child™?

NAEYC designates the Week of the Young Child™ dates and theme, but events are planned and implemented by local communities. Celebrations are organized and coordinated by regional, state, and local NAEYC Affiliates, and by individual early childhood programs and community organizations providing services to young children and families.

Local communities may tailor celebrations to meet their own needs. For example, while NAEYC traditionally designates a Week of the Young Child™, some groups generate so much enthusiasm and support that they celebrate the "Month of the Young Child." Others have modified the dates of their celebration to coordinate with other community scheduled events.

However adapted, the central purpose remains unchanged—to promote the needs of young children, their families, and the early childhood programs that serve them.

Here are some ideas from NAEYC to keep you in the loop with this year's themes!

Music Monday! April 16, 2018

Sing, dance, celebrate, and learn

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills - All while having fun and being active! Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own, and share it on [NAEYC's Facebook page](#) or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc18.

TRY THIS: Find the beat to connect music, movement, and math. Practice clapping, drumming, or stomping to the beat of the music while counting.

Tasty Tuesday April 17, 2018

Healthy eating and fitness at home and school

This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. With the rise in childhood obesity, you can encourage healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and in the classroom. Create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations on [NAEYC's Facebook page](#) or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc18.

TRY THIS: Measure your ingredients while making your snacks! Ask children if they'd like the same or different amounts of each ingredient.

Work Together Wednesday April 18, 2018

Work together, build together, learn 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 on [NAEYC's Facebook page](#) or Twitter using the #woyc18 hashtag.

TRY THIS: Practice organizing blocks by size! Try building a block tower with large blocks on the bottom and little blocks on top!

Artsy Thursday April 19, 2018

Think, problem solve, create

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 #woyc18 hashtag.

TRY THIS: Bring art outdoors! Offer dark and light paper, chalk and pastels, and suggest children create their own versions of the day and night sky!

Family Friday April 20, 2018

Sharing family stories

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 about your family on [NAEYC's Facebook page](#) or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc18 as we celebrate the unique role families play in their children's learning and development.

TRY THIS: Invite parents for a Family Friday breakfast, where children can prepare and share breakfast treats with their families!