



Together for Children

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**2014 WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD™ CELEBRATES IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND THEIR EDUCATORS THROUGH “EARLY YEARS ARE THE LEARNING YEARS” FOCUS**

*Georgia Association on Young Children takes part in the National Association for the Education of
Young Children’s Annual Celebration*

Atlanta, Georgia – Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) is honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children’s lives during the Week of the Young Child™ (April 6-12, 2014). As part of the national Week of the Young Child™ celebrated across the country, GAYC will focus public attention on critical learning opportunities for 1.2 million Georgia children eight or younger through a variety of activities.

“Week of the Young Child™ reinforces that the early years are critical learning years and qualified early childhood professionals accelerate how our children learn, develop, build the skills to get along with others, and succeed in school and life,” said Christina Parker, Executive Director of GAYC. “A safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment during the early years with specially skilled and knowledgeable staff and professionals can ensure children have the most positive learning experience possible.”

“This year, we plan to celebrate our children and 60,000+ professionals who help mold their futures by sharing a calendar full of events that are happening all over the state of Georgia. We are hoping that by doing this it will empower all individuals to celebrate young children and those who make a difference in their lives in their own communities. The calendar is listed on our website www.gayconline.org,” said Christina Parker, Executive Director of GAYC. “Week of the Young Child™, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), 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.”

Caring for children is not ‘rocket science’ – it’s *brain* science. Studies prove that the brain connections made in the first few years of life set a child’s path for success in school and in life. All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and Georgia has a great opportunity to do its part to help young children.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which help children get a great start and bring lasting benefits to Georgia. The child care industry provides more than 61,203 jobs in the industry itself and generates an additional 12,900 jobs in other market segments. It generates gross receipts of \$2.4 billion annually in Georgia. During Week of the Young Child™, NAEYC is Celebrating



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the Power of the Profession because effective teachers are a critical part of the partnership with families – both of whom have a direct impact on getting kids ready for success in school and in life.

The Georgia Association on Young Children has thousands of effective early childhood professionals 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. Quality professionals recognize and support children’s individual differences while establishing the right expectations to ensure children have positive attitudes toward learning and are ready to succeed in school.

Child Policy Partnership. (2008). Economic impact of the early care and education industry in Georgia.

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/child-care>

The Georgia Association on Young Children’s mission is to encourage and support healthy development in young children by working with others to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood education, and to improve the quality of programs for young children through learning opportunities for early childhood educators. We are an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Learn more at www.naeyc.org

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