Lincolnton NC
Near the City. Near the Mountains. Near Perfect.

A PROCLAMATION
2024 WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

WHEREAS, the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties, in conjunction with the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), are celebrating the **"Week of the Young Child",** April 6 -12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning**;** and

WHEREAS, high quality early childhood programs provide important benefits to children, families and our state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, high-quality childhood education depends on high-quality early childhood educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation; and

WHEREAS, tuition from fee-paying parents and subsidy rates for families with low income are typically insufficient to afford highly-qualified, consistent early childhood educators and pay for low child-to-early educator ratios that ensure the health and safety; and

WHEREAS, young children need early childhood educators who are incentivized and supported to provide high-quality care to those with high and special needs; and

WHEREAS, working families need robust subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income levels that support the true cost of quality early childhood education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Ed Hatley, by virtue of the authority vested in me by that the Lincolnton City Council, do hereby proclaim April **6-12, 2024** as the

"Week of the Young Child"

We recognize the complex, valuable, essential and demanding work of early childhood educators and urge all members of our community to support efforts to increase children and families' access to high-quality early childhood education.

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Ed Hatley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Daphne Ingram, City Clerk