



**2009**

**Month  
Of  
the  
Young  
Child**

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## ***Month of the Young Child<sup>â</sup>***

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Each April, child advocates in Michigan celebrate the ***Month of the Young Child<sup>â</sup>*** (MOYC<sup>®</sup>). This is a time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and their families.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) first established the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) in 1971 recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life.

The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) followed suit and established WOYC as a standing committee on the MiAEYC Governing Board in 1974. In 1985, MiAEYC expanded its celebration from one week to the entire month of April. The focus weeks for April are included in this information.

The *Month of the Young Child<sup>â</sup>* is a time to focus on the needs of young children and families and to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

### **FREE FAMILY EVENTS IN MACOMB COUNTY**

PLEASE SEE [www.migreatparents.org](http://www.migreatparents.org) for a listing of current activities; click on Macomb County and then Activities.

### **PLANNING RESOURCES**

New tools and information from the National Association for the Education of Young Children will help in planning exciting events to celebrate children and raise awareness of their needs. Check out these resources and start planning ways to *build better futures for all children!*

Use the NAEYC [EVENT PLANNING HANDBOOK](#) for strategies regarding involving community partners, activity ideas, resources and groups to contact.

### **MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE**

- Copies of the [Macomb County Directory of Children's Services](#). Call 1.866.4MACOMB for copies while they last.
- Copies of the [Parent HelpCARD](#), a wallet sized card of free and low-cost services in Macomb County. Call 1.866.4MACOMB for copies.
- **Month of the Young Child<sup>â</sup>** materials. Access the following sites for free

Month of the Young Child<sup>®</sup> is a registered servicemark of the Michigan Association of the Education of Young Children.

materials:

- <http://www.macombaeyc.com>
- <http://www.migreatparents.org>
- <http://www.miaeyc.org> and
- <http://www.naeyc.com>
- Teddy bear bookmarks highlighting the [migreatparents.org](http://www.migreatparents.org) website. Call Great Parents, Macomb at 1.866.4MACOMB.
- [April calendar](#) of activities related to celebrating, promoting, recognizing and advocating on behalf of children and families.
- U.S. Department of Education parent publications. Many new ones regarding ages birth to 5 are now available at [www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html)
- Local [Resolution](#) declaring April, Month of the Young Child (attached).
- [Focus Weeks](#) of April (attached).
- [2009 Guide to Family Fun \(available online April 30\)](#). Ideas for family activities and places to visit throughout the year!
- Macomb County MOYC® Community Breakfast Packet of Materials

## **2009 MOYC Focus Weeks**

### **The MOYC 2009 Focus Weeks highlight children's development.**

Children's early years are the foundation for growth and development. Children are constantly developing and learning. What they are learning depends on their physical health, social-emotional health, relationships and daily interactions and experiences.

### **Week One: April 1-11**

#### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Proper nutrition and rest, opportunities to explore in safe, supportive environments, sound health practices, and nurturing, responsive relationships help ensure children's physical development. Children vary in their physical abilities at different ages; different parts of the body grow at different rates. Children need to move and be active in many different ways to reach their full physical development.

- Healthy babies should sleep on their backs.
- Well-balanced meals support growth and development.
- Exercise and fresh air enhance well-being.
- Safe, secure environments support exploration which helps develop muscles and motor skills.

### **Week Two: April 12-18**

#### **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social-emotional development strongly influences interpersonal relations, behavior and learning. The early childhood years are a critical period for the development of self-esteem and social skills.

Early interactions and how we relate and respond, directly affect the way the brain is 'wired'; children learn in the context of important relationships. Children with a healthy sense of self-esteem feel that the important adults in their lives love them, accept them and would go out of their way to ensure their safety and well-being.

- Responding lovingly – smiling, holding, cuddling – helps build trusting relationships.
  - Talk with and listen to children with genuine interest and respect.
- Focus on the positive; thank children for sharing, helping, cooperating.
  - Set reasonable limits children can learn and depend on.

### **Week Three: April 19-25**

#### **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Brain development research affirms what parents and teachers have known for years:

- 1) good prenatal care,
  - 2) warm and loving attachments between young children and adults and
  - 3) positive stimulation from the time of birth
- makes a difference in children's development for a lifetime.

Early experiences contribute significantly to the structure of the brain. The quality, quantity and consistency of stimulation determines how the brain connects and functions; this is true for cognitive and emotional development, and the effect is lifelong.

- 95% of information received comes to us through vision, touch and hearing.
- Positive feelings trigger the release of endorphins, which enhance the functioning of brain connections.
- The brain needs to be properly hydrated in order to be alert; only water provides proper hydration.

- Check with your physician for appropriate water intake for children under two.
- Offer information to young children in small doses and increase the amount as they show understanding.

## **Week Four: April 26-30**

### **LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

Communication is the vehicle for intellectual development, exchanging information, sharing feelings and developing strong emotional bonds. Talking with children encouragingly about the things they are doing, thinking and feeling enhances children's language development and helps build confidence and independence. Reading aloud with children is an essential component to language development and is one of the most important activities for preparing them to succeed as readers.

- Make time to read with your child each and every day.
- Read it again and again and again – children delight in the familiar and knowing what comes next.
- Talk to and with your child so they can learn about the sounds, rhythms and purpose of language.
- Talk about everyday print, read signs and point out letters and words so children learn the importance of written communication.

For information, contact MIAEYC: 800-336-6424

# **FACTS AND RESOURCES FOR THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD<sup>®</sup>**

## **KEY FACTS AND RESOURCES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL**

**KITE DAY BASICS: A TOOL KIT FOR PLANNING, ORGANIZING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING A COMMUNITY KITE DAY FOR APRIL OR OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR!**

**MACOMB COUNTY PROFILE OF CHILD WELL-BEING – KIDS COUNT IN MI DATA BOOK, 2008**

**MICHIGAN'S NEW EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (for families)**

**MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD<sup>®</sup> PRESS RELEASE**

# MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD® RESOLUTION

## 2010 MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

### NEW STATS ON MICHIGAN CHILDREN

Newly released statistics on Michigan's children cover:

- ?Community Conditions for Young Children in Michigan 2000-2005
- ? Pediatric and Family Health in Michigan 2000-2005
- ? Child Care and Early Education in Michigan 2000-2005
- ? Social-Emotional Health of Young Children in Michigan 2000-2006 and
- ?Family Support/Parent Education in Michigan 2000-2006.

However you celebrate the *Month of the Young Child*<sup>®</sup>,  
remember that ***our future is sitting in our  
preschool and kindergarten classes.  
Early years are learning years—make them count!***

**SAMPLE LOCAL RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL, 2009 AS  
THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD®**

Local governing boards and school boards can proclaim a Month of the Young Child® resolution. Ask a city council member, county commissioner or school board member to sponsor a local resolution declaring April as the Month of the Young Child® in your community, county or school district. Wording below, in parentheses, indicates where to personalize with local information.

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**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL, 2009 AS THE  
MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD® IN (COMMUNITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT)**

*Sponsored by: (NAME OF PERSON)*

*WHEREAS, April is the Month of the Young Child® in the State of Michigan; and*

*WHEREAS, the Month of the Young Child® celebration promotes the importance of young children's needs and concerns throughout Michigan during the month of April; and*

*WHEREAS, the Month of the Young Child® seeks to draw public attention to the critical importance of helping children to become valued, literate, healthy, caring and contributing citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, the Month of the Young Child® seeks to promote education, resources and programming for supporting young children and their families; and*

*WHEREAS, the Month of the Young Child® seeks to promote education, resources and programming for helping children enter school ready to succeed; and now, therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED, that the (SPONSORING GROUP) declares April, 2009, as the Month of the Young Child® in (COMMUNITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT); and be it further*

*RESOLVED, that the (NAME OF COMMUNITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT) supports all efforts and resources, particularly local, that promote, encourage, support and educate the community on children's issues; and be it finally*

*RESOLVED, that the (NAME OF COMMUNITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT) upholds the vision that every person, everywhere, every day understands their responsibility in raising and caring for our children.*

*Adopted (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)*

*(SIGNATURE OF LEAD MEMBER OF SPONSORING GROUP)*