

Proclamation recognizing May 8, 2026, as Provider Appreciation Day®.

WHEREAS, Child Care Aware® of America and organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day; and

WHEREAS, the child care system supports children's growth, development, and educational advancement while creating positive economic impacts for families and communities; and

WHEREAS, child care providers are essential to the health of our communities by fostering safe and welcoming spaces, supporting working families, and creating enriching environments where children develop lifelong skills; and

WHEREAS, the City of Independence recognizes that child care has been and continues to be a lifeline for families, communities, and the economy. As such, it has provided much-needed support to providers to help sustain the viability of child care by actively assessing our community's needs through the Child Care Market Analysis that was completed thanks to a Rural Child Care Market Study Grant received through the Center for Rural Revitalization, part of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, to develop a targeted strategic plan, providing possible City Tax Increment Financing to support local facility development for interested parties; and

WHEREAS, support for affordable, accessible, high-quality child care represents a worthy commitment to help families work, support children's healthy development and learning, and keep our economy growing.

Now, therefore, I, Brad Bleichner, Mayor of Independence, hereby proclaim May 8, 2026, as Provider Appreciation Day in Independence and urge all citizens to recognize child care providers for their important work and how valuable they are to our communities.