



Founded 1876  
Incorporated 1899

# TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331  
(928) 634-7943

## PROCLAMATION Week of the Young Child April 11–17, 2026

**WHEREAS**, all of Arizona’s children deserve access to high-quality early care and education environments that support healthy development and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, quality childcare and early learning programs help build children’s lifelong learning skills during the critical years from birth to age five; and

**WHEREAS**, early childhood educators and childcare providers are an essential workforce that enables Arizona parents to participate in the workforce and pursue education; and

**WHEREAS**, investments in quality early care and education strengthen families, support local businesses, and contribute to thriving communities and a strong economy; and

**WHEREAS**, First Things First, the Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, and other community partners, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the 55th anniversary of the Week of the Young Child™; and

**WHEREAS**, these organizations are working to expand equitable early childhood opportunities and ensure a strong start for children in Jerome and surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, public policies and community support that strengthen early care and education help Arizona’s youngest learners, families, and communities thrive.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Mayor Christina “Alex” Barber, do hereby proclaim **April 11–17, 2026, as the Week of the Young Child in Jerome Arizona**, and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of early childhood and support the programs and professionals who help young children learn, grow, and succeed.

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Christina “Alex” R. Barber, Mayor