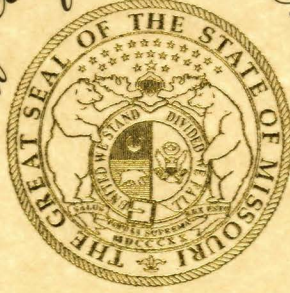


Office of the Governor



State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, early childhood is the most formative developmental period of life, with ninety percent of brain development occurring by age five, and early brain development linked to social emotional development, health, and academic performance well into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, children's cognitive, physical, social, emotional, language, and literacy development is built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of Missouri's children live in households where parents or guardians work; and

WHEREAS, forty-one percent of Missouri's children are economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, a high percentage of mothers return to work in the first six weeks after the birth of a child; and

WHEREAS, young children need developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available early care and education settings; and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators need to have the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that is comparable to or equal to the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do every day; and

WHEREAS, the Friday before Mother's Day is declared as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 10, 2024, to be

CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 6th day of May, 2024.



Michael L. Parson

Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jay Ashcroft

SECRETARY OF STATE