

1 [The Week of the Young Child in San Francisco - April 5 through April 11, 2025]

2
3 **Resolution celebrating early care educators and families of young children during “The**
4 **Week of the Young Child,” April 5 through April 11, 2025, in the City and County of San**
5 **Francisco; and reaffirming the City’s commitment to establishing a universal, inclusive**
6 **early care and education system that expands access, reduces barriers, addresses**
7 **affordability, and leverages strategic partnerships.**
8

9 WHEREAS, The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration during the month of
10 April sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC),
11 the world’s largest early childhood education association, to focus public attention on the
12 needs of young children and their families; and to promote the importance of early care and
13 education as a foundation for the intellectual, emotional, social-emotional, and physical
14 development of young children; and

15 WHEREAS, Children’s brains develop more during the first five years of their life than
16 at any other time; and

17 WHEREAS, High quality early care and education is dependent on well-supported
18 early care educators who receive fair wages, health care and paid leave benefits, work
19 environments that support quality work, and professional development resources; and

20 WHEREAS, Young children need developmentally appropriate, readily available early
21 care and education settings, but access is currently uneven and dependent on the ability to
22 pay parent fees or access subsidies; and

23 WHEREAS, Working families rely on an expansion of affordable, high-quality early care
24 and education especially given the shortage of affordable infant and toddler child care slots;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a legacy as a champion in supporting children and
2 families and celebrates diversity while recognizing the inequities along race and class lines;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco has made great strides in advancing the support system for
5 early childhood education through the Early Care and Education for All Initiative, made
6 possible by the historic passage of Proposition C (also known as “Baby C”) in 2018 that
7 created a dedicated source of local funding to support the wages of early care educators and
8 to expand quality early learning child care spaces for children ages 0-5; and

9 WHEREAS, Additional funding is being released to support robust educator
10 professional development pathways; stipends for early educator professional development;
11 tuition assistance for early educator degree attainment; and facility investments needed to
12 build a comprehensive early care and education system for children from birth to five; and

13 WHEREAS, The SEQUAL (Supportive Environmental Quality Underlying Adult
14 Learning) survey of early educators and administrators has been conducted San Francisco-
15 wide to refine the investments to improve the quality of early care educators' work conditions
16 and further support the quality of service delivered; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2022, San Francisco established the Department of Early Childhood
18 (DEC) to center the needs of the city’s youngest children and their families through a two-
19 generational approach in supporting programs that are critical in providing nurturing care and
20 education for their lives now; and striving to achieve universal quality early care and education
21 for all families to best prepare children for Kindergarten and lifetime success; and

22 WHEREAS, Since 2022, DEC developed initiatives that focus on the factors proven to
23 contribute to kindergarten readiness including: 1) Financial support for families to help make
24 high-quality early care and education accessible to all San Franciscans; 2) Early educator
25

1 compensation, professional development, and quality supports that value our teaching
2 workforce and equip them to deliver high-quality learning experiences for children; and

3 WHEREAS, Since 2018, the waitlist for subsidized child care decreased by 73%,
4 despite increased eligibility – an achievement that reflects strategic investments and system
5 improvements; and

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco stands out nationally as one of the few major cities where
7 kindergarten readiness rates improved across nearly all demographics, surpassing pre-
8 pandemic levels; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2024, the City expanded eligibility for financial support for early learning,
10 including families earning up to 150% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or approximately
11 \$224,800 for a family of four, an increase from the current cap of 110% AMI, for the next two
12 years; and

13 WHEREAS, DEC and the Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC) share a
14 bold vision of universal access to inclusive, high-quality child care – working collaboratively to
15 address persistent barriers, expand program capacity, and support children with special
16 needs; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 declares the week of April 5 through April 11, 2025, “The Week of the Young Child” and
19 encourages celebrations throughout the month of April; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
21 Francisco commit to reducing barriers to access, expanding early learning programs’ capacity,
22 enhancing inclusive practices to ensure all children can thrive - especially those in historically
23 marginalized communities, such as Black, Indigenous, People of Color, English Language
24 Learners, and students with disabilities; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
2 Francisco recognizes the financial challenges faced by families in accessing child care and
3 will deepen partnerships across sectors - including government, community organizations,
4 and businesses to strengthen a coordinated, equitable early care system that prioritizes
5 continuous quality improvement and shared accountability; including strategies that address
6 affordability concerns, explore subsidy options, and expand financial support mechanisms;
7 and

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
9 Francisco extend their utmost appreciation to early care educators for their outstanding work
10 on behalf of young children and their families; and support efforts to ensure their just
11 compensation, benefits, and career development opportunities, recognizing their critical role in
12 shaping the futures of San Francisco's youngest residents; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
14 Francisco affirms its support to the children, families, service providers, and the early care and
15 education workforce of San Francisco and commits to visiting sites to see firsthand the
16 positive impact of these programs on families and young children; and to listen to providers
17 about ongoing needs to stabilize and improve programs, access, and workforce development.