



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2022

**Navajo Nation partners with early childhood programs
to recognize “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child”**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge, and early childhood programs during the proclamation signing ceremony on April 6, 2022, at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Second Lady Dottie Lizer was joined by Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Executive Director Deannah Neswood-Gishey and Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge to sign a proclamation on Wednesday, recognizing the week of April 2 – 8, 2022, as “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child,” to honor all advocates and Navajo Nation early childhood programs, who inspire high-quality early childhood experiences and resources for Navajo children and families.

This week, the Office of the President and Vice President partnered with First Things First – Navajo Nation Region, Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative, and Navajo Project Indigenous LAUNCH to raise awareness and celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

“During Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child, we celebrate early childhood programs and providers, teachers, parents, grandparents, and others who help build healthy young minds that

prepare children for success in school and life. The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for child care programs, schools, and parenting, but we continue to help each other recover and strive forward. Together, we can ensure access to quality services for families and high-quality learning environments for children on the Navajo Nation,” said President Nez.

The proclamation states that Navajo children are sacred, precious, and resilient and that support for all children is crucial for their future and the prosperity of our society.

“The proclamation focuses on the importance of early childhood education and encourages parents, grandparents, and family programs across the Navajo Nation to participate in hands-on, creative, fun, and educational activities with children. I am a believer in lifelong learning for our people. This is a time to appreciate, motivate, and support each other to build a stronger foundation for our children. The education, love, and nurturing of our young children are the responsibilities of all of us. Week of the Young Child recognizes the importance of early years, and our roles in helping our children to learn and grow,” said First Lady Nez.

“Ahé’héé nitsaagoo, thank you very much, for everyone who helps our Diné children learn and grow. First Things First and all early childhood programs on Navajo Nation are here to support families. Especially in their role as their child’s first and most important teachers,” said First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Director Memarie Tsosie.

The proclamation encourages all citizens of the Navajo Nation, from all denominations and walks of life, to offer prayers for the health and well-being of all individuals, including children, so that we may support balance and harmony in Navajo homes and communities.

“Early childhood is a crucial development stage, and as a community, we have to help and support our future generations. Our children are our future leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, and innovators, and this is the time to remind ourselves that our children need our full support and love. Let’s pray for our youngest citizens, and may their lives be fulfilled with hope, growth, and success,” said Vice President Lizer.

“All children have the right to equitable opportunities and development that help them achieve their full potential. We must continue to encourage, support, and pray for educators, social workers, parents, and caregivers, who help to enrich children’s lives,” said Second Lady Lizer.

Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative and Navajo Project Indigenous LAUNCH will be hosting events this week to provide opportunities to engage and support Navajo families and children. To participate, please visit their social media page at <https://www.facebook.com/navajoprojectlaunch/>.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 2- 8, 2022 AS THE “NAVAJO NATION WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD”

The Navajo Nation hereby recognizes April 2-8, 2022 as the “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child.” We acknowledge the dedication and advocacy that our Navajo Nation Early Childhood Programs provide to our Diné children and families.

WHEREAS, Navajo Nation programs, such as Department of Diné Education, OSERS, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services, Growing in Beauty, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH, Head Start, Child Care Development, First Things First, Women, Infant, Children (WIC) and other local organizations are celebrating the Week of the Young Child™, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children; and

WHEREAS, Navajo Nation programs and organizations continue to promote and inspire high quality early childhood experiences for Navajo children and families and acknowledge the importance of the first five years in laying the foundation for all future learning and success in school and in life; and

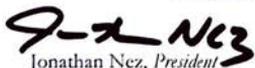
WHEREAS, teachers, early care and education providers, stakeholders, parents, grandparents, and others who make a difference in the lives of young children on the Navajo Nation deserve recognition and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, our Navajo children are sacred, precious, and resilient and that support for all our children is crucial for their future and the prosperity of our society; and

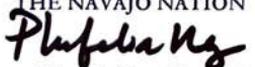
WHEREAS, we offer this proclamation to encourage all citizens of the Navajo Nation, from all denominations and walks of life, to offer prayers for the health and well-being of all *Diné*, so that we may restore balance and harmony in our homes and the lives of our people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN M. NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim and recognize the week of April 2-8, 2022 as the “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child.”

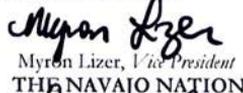
PROCLAIMED THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL 2022


Jonathan Nez, *President*

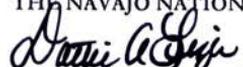
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Phetelia Nez, *First Lady*

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Myron Lizer, *Vice President*

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Dottie Lizer, *Second Lady*

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