

Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Week of the Young Child
April 6-12, 2024**

- WHEREAS,** The first years of a child's life are the most rapid brain development period and lay the foundation for all future learning; and
- WHEREAS,** Children's cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and language development are built on each child's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and
- WHEREAS,** High-quality early care and education help build strong developmental foundations for young children leading to positive outcomes for individual children, helping them be better prepared for school and more likely to succeed in life; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Northampton, through its Northampton Public Schools, has prioritized securing grant funding to support young children, families, and early childhood educators including:
- the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant that funds Northampton Parents Center & Hadley Library playgroups, parent workshops, and developmental screenings
 - and the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant that funds quality and inclusion supports in early education and care programs across the city
- WHEREAS,** The City of Northampton has dedicated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to increase access to early education and childcare services for qualifying families; and
- WHEREAS,** We celebrate our partnership with Smith College's Museum of Art today and throughout the year as they create and host programs for young families.
- NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, encourage all members of the Northampton community to join me in supporting efforts that increase children and families' access to high-quality early childhood education, in recognizing the complex, valuable, essential, and demanding work of early childhood educators, and in celebrating the



Week of the Young Child

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton on this twelfth day of April, 2024.


Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra