



Bring Communities Together for **Children** Bring Communities Together  
Week of the Young Child

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## What Is the Week of the Young Child?

*The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.*

*The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.*

*NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.*

*NAEYC designates the Week of the Young Child dates and theme, but events are planned and implemented by local communities. Celebrations are organized and coordinated by regional, state, and local NAEYC Affiliates, and by individual early childhood programs and community organizations providing services to young children and families.*

*The theme for Week of the Young Child 2009 is Bring Communities Together for Children—Children Bring Communities Together. OAEYC is focusing on promoting early literacy and learning in the community.*

*Please contact Omaha AEYC at 541-4718 or OmahaAEYC@yahoo.com for further information about Week of the Young Child .*

*Information in this article was provided by [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).*

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## Who Is Omaha AEYC?

*The Omaha Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) is a professional membership organization for anyone interested in the care and education of young children. We are Leading the Way to Quality by:*

- *Promoting High Quality Child Care & Education*
- *Advocating for Early Childhood Care & Education*
- *Building a Strong Community Foundation*
- *Providing Professional Development Opportunities for Early Childhood Educators*
- *Encouraging programs to attain Accreditation through the NAEYC Academy*

*For more information on becoming a member, please visit [www.OmahaAEYC.org](http://www.OmahaAEYC.org) or [www.naeyc.org/membership](http://www.naeyc.org/membership)*

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## Why Wear a Purple Ribbon?

*Many early childhood educators have worn purple ribbons during Week of the Young Child to promote awareness for early childhood education, but what does the purple ribbon really mean? The purple ribbon is not directly related to Week of the Young Child. The purple ribbon seems mostly related to domestic violence awareness and prevention and then morphed into child abuse prevention, so that is most logically how it transitioned into a symbol for Week of the Young Child.*

*Most importantly, purple symbolizes wisdom. Wear or display a purple ribbon during Week of the Young Child but know that not everyone will know what it is for. Your wisdom will be needed to advocate and educate others on the issues of early childhood education for young children and their families. Wearing or displaying a purple ribbon shows you care about young children and are aware of their needs.*

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**Omaha Association for the Education of Young Children...Leading the Way to Quality**  
**[www.omahaaeyc.org](http://www.omahaaeyc.org)    [OmahaAEYC@yahoo.com](mailto:OmahaAEYC@yahoo.com)    402-541-4718**

## What's Happening in the Community for the Week of the Young Child?

### FEATURED EVENT - Omaha AEYC Kick Off

#### Omaha Children's Museum

Special thanks to Omaha Children's Museum for hosting the 2009 Week of the Young Child Kick Off! Bring the insert of this newsletter to the museum on Saturday, April 18 for FREE admission between 10:00 a.m. and Noon and a discount at the museum store. Activities for children, information for families and lots of play and discovery!!

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### Sarpy County Kick Off

Monday, April 20                      6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.                      Sarpy Community YMCA, 1111 E 1st, Papillion

Family activities for all! This event is co-sponsored by Papillion/LaVista School, Sarpy County Head Start, Sarpy Branch YMCA and Bellevue Public Schools.

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### Bellevue Public Schools - Preschool Classes Roundup

Monday, April 20	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Betz Preschool Roundup
Tuesday, April 21	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Birchcrest Preschool Roundup
Wednesday, April 22	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Belleaire Preschool Roundup
Thursday, April 23	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Central Preschool Roundup

For more information, please call 293-4941.

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### Fatburger in Shadow Lake Towne Center

10% off for the entire family when a young child brings in an "original" creation. The artwork will be on display in the restaurant for everyone to enjoy during the Week of the Young Child.

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### Kids Body Shop (Papillion)

Monday, April 20                      11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.                      Fitness Special  
Children age 8 and under and their parents are invited to play in the gym on the equipment. \$1 per person; limit 3 children/parent.

Saturday, April 25                      6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.                      Family Fun Night  
The gym and the pool will be open for children age 8 and under and their families! \$5 per family; limit 3 children/parent.

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### Omaha Public Library

Welcome Brenda Jones, from *Songbirds Music 'n Play* who will be visiting four branches during Week of the Young Child. Young children will enjoy learning songs, games, fingerplays, hula hoop and parachute fun, and rhythm instruments from this high energy presenter! Registration is required for these sessions - please contact the branch of interest to you.

Monday, April 20	10:30 a.m.	Florence Branch	444-5299
Thursday, April 23	10:30 a.m.	Benson Branch	444-4846
Thursday, April 23	1:00 p.m.	A.V. Sorensen Branch	444-5274
Saturday, April 25	10:30 a.m.	Willa Cather Branch	444-4851

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### Papillion-La Vista Early Childhood Programs Family Picnic

Thursday, April 23                      5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.                      Carriage Hill School

This is a free event for families served by the district early childhood programs. There will be food, pony rides, a train ride, bouncy House, The Amazing Arthur, and many other fun activities. During the Week of the Young Child, there will be readers and activities in the early childhood classrooms.

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### Ralston Baright Library

Sunday, April 26                      1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.                      Celebrating Culture and Diversity Event

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### The Bookworm

Shop at The Bookworm, 8702 Pacific Street, during the week of April 19-25 for special in-store discounts. Be sure to stop by and see Ellen or Anna in the Children's Department - tell them Omaha AEYC sent you!

## How You Can Celebrate Week of the Young Child

There are many things that you can do to celebrate young children and the adults important in their lives. Here are some suggestions:

- Provide age appropriate books and “sharing books with children” tips to parents
- Write a note to your state senator educating them on the importance of the early years and making them aware of the unmet needs of young children and families in our community (To find out who your senator is, visit [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov))
- Purchase discounted tickets (just \$2 a ticket!!) for the Sunday, April 19 Omaha Royals Game! Contact Jennifer Haggart for information - 402-597-4991 or [jhaggart@esu3.org](mailto:jhaggart@esu3.org)



- Give each day a “Thank You” theme recognizing parents, children, staff, and business and community partners
  - Host a Children's Book Festival or Book Fair to celebrate reading and promote early literacy
  - Invite child care center parents to breakfast (juice and bagels or muffins) to thank them for being valuable partners
  - Organize a children’s art exhibit featuring original creations by young children
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- Schedule workshops for parents - One idea is “Kids Don’t Come with Instructions!” a panel to bring questions featuring a pediatrician, social worker and other early childhood experts and professionals
  - Invite local government leadership to visit your child care program. Encourage them to participate as “special readers” sharing a favorite book from their childhood.
  - Attend a story time (for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and families) at your local Omaha Public Library branch (Check [www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org) for schedules)
  - Remember to join us on Saturday, April 18 for the Omaha AEYC Week of the Young Child Kick Off event at Omaha Children’s Museum!

Anything you do to celebrate the importance young children, families and teachers is great. We hope you have fun with this week!

### Champions 4 Children Campaign

A campaign that is specifically designed to help raise awareness of the struggles experienced by families stricken with cancer as well as raise much needed funds. Proceeds from the co-sponsored campaign will go to help families with a child battling cancer at the Children’s Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha to help pay for the practical things children with cancer need. Many of these items are not covered by health insurance, including wigs, transportation to and from chemotherapy sessions, or lodging costs for out-of-town families. All co-sponsors will be recognized in a community service advertisement in the Omaha World Herald on Sunday, April 19 as Nebraska’s Champions4Children. The campaign is sponsored by ChildCare Share, a network of child care professionals and Educators promoting professionalism and education throughout their profession. For more information on Nebraska’s Champions4Children, or to become a sponsor, visit <http://www.nc4c.info/>.



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**Week of the  
 Young Child**

**April 19-25, 2009**

*Bring Communities Together for Children*



**Omaha AEYC Board Members**

President and State Liaison: Jennifer Haggart  Past President: Dawn Hove  Secretary: Linda Reddish  Treasurer: Rick Jacobsen	Accreditation: Brenda Saxe  Board Development: Phyllis Chandler  Communications:  Member Outreach 1: Erica Thompson  Member Outreach 2: Gina Whittington	Professional Development 1: Sandy Peterson  Professional Development 2: Angel Starks  Public Policy: Dave Schinzel  Week of Young Child 1: Jana Habrock  Week of Young Child 2: Linda Thompson
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# Week of the Young Child



## Kick-Off Event At Omaha Children's Museum

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - Noon

Join Omaha Association for the Education of Young Children and Omaha Children's Museum to kick-off Week of the Young Child.

### Activities Include:

- Community Information Booths for Families
- Children's Activity Booths
- Meet Sid the Science Kid
- Balloon Artists
- Funky Mama Music

## FREE Admission

Admits one family or individual to Week of the Young Child Kick-Off Event at Omaha Children's Museum

**Saturday, April 18**  
10 a.m. - Noon

Discounts do not combine. Present coupon at front desk. Not valid any other time. Not redeemable for cash.

## 10% Off

Receive 10% off a purchase of \$5 or more at Omaha Children's Museum store

**Saturday, April 18**  
10 a.m. - Noon

Discounts do not combine. Present coupon at time of purchase. Not redeemable for cash.

[www.ocm.org](http://www.ocm.org)  
(402) 342-6164

500 S 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

**FREE**  
Parking

