



March 27, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

Thank you for your leadership for our state's children. I am writing to ask for your consideration of two important events in April.

Each year, communities and states across the country celebrate young children during a week dedicated to their success. This year, the Week of the Young Child is April 6–12, 2014. During this week, we recognize the needs of young children and celebrate the adults involved in their education and care. *We hope you will consider the following draft proclamation, recognizing April 6-12, 2014 as South Carolina's "Week of the Young Child 2014."*

In addition, we will be launching our "**1000 Books by Kindergarten**" campaign on the statehouse grounds, Thursday, April 10, as a part of the SC Read-In 2014, where 1300 South Carolinians will march to support reading. *We would love to have you offer a few remarks (2-3 minutes) about the importance of reading early and often to children, beginning at birth.*

I will follow-up with your office to see if your schedule will permit your participation on April 10, and to attend to any details related to the proclamation. We will be offering similar proclamations in the House and Senate during the week of April 7.

Thank you for all you do for our youngest learners!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan".

Susan DeVenny
Director

Cc: Lewis Smoak, Vice-Chair, SC First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees
Lisa VanRiper, Secretary, SC First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees

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Proclamation by Governor Haley
South Carolina Week of the Young Child

Whereas, appropriate early learning standards are vital to quality education opportunities for the children of South Carolina; and

Whereas, comprehensive, community-based school readiness programs are essential to the future academic success of our youngest learners; and

Whereas, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in South Carolina deserve thanks and recognition; and

Whereas, a broad coalition of school readiness partners, including business, faith, education, health, and nonprofit communities throughout the Palmetto State, is committed to strengthening quality public and private early education and child care choices for parents; and

Whereas, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to ensuring our future workforce;

I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2014, as South Carolina's Week of the Young Child and encourage all citizens to work together to ensure our youngest learners are successful in school and in life.