Date

Name of Newspaper/Publication

Address

Dear Editor,

North Carolina’s future prosperity depends on investments we make in today’s children, their families and the professionals who care for and educate them.

Governor McCrory has proclaimed April 12 – 18, 2015 as the *Week of the Young Child* and April as the *Month of the Young Child*. The Week and Month of the Young Child are an initiative of NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and our state affiliate, NCaeyc. In its 62nd year and with over 2200 members, NCaeyc is our state’s largest and oldest professional membership association for those who work with or on behalf of children birth through age eight. During this time of recognition, communities are asked to join in showing appreciation to early childhood professionals who care for and educate our state’s youngest citizens. We ask that you support us in advocating for policies, practices and resources that help ensure a strong foundation for North Carolina’s children and families.

The availability of quality childcare and early education is crucial to the lives of all North Carolinians, even for those who may not have children of their own in childcare or early education programs. When children are well-cared for, families are able to be part of a productive, reliable workforce. Employers and our state’s economy benefit when our state’s children are well cared for and educated.

It is also an important investment with a high rate of return. Research by leading economists shows that for every dollar invested in quality early care and education, our state saves seven dollars later in the reduction of school remediation, retention and special services as well in the reduction of incarceration.

There are over one million children from birth to age eight in our state and over 25,000 early educators who spend their days teaching and caring for young children in childcare centers, family childcare homes, and kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms. These early educators have the immense and crucial responsibility of providing the high quality early learning experiences for young children and they deserve our collective recognition and appreciation for the important work that they do.

Please join in celebrating the Week of the Young Child in our community! [*insert your WOYC event details here*]

Sincerely,

[Your Name,

Contact Information]