



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

***CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY***

**WHEREAS, Florida is committed to providing the most robust and highest-quality education system in the country to every student, regardless of zip code or family circumstances; and**

**WHEREAS, childcare workers, including teachers and childcare professionals, are essential to helping working parents continue to provide for their families and contribute to their communities; and**

**WHEREAS, my administration, along with the Department of Education and the Office of Early Learning, remained focused on ensuring that providers were able to stay open or reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic and worked with early learning coalitions across the state to expedite access to child care for the children of first responders and health care professionals, and found flexible ways to support providers and families; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida is home to approximately 1.3 million children under the age of 6, and more than 369,000 children attended one of the state's early education programs in 2019-2020; and**

**WHEREAS, there are nearly 12,000 childcare programs in the state that support working families, including small and large private businesses, family child care homes, faith-based programs and public school settings; and**

**WHEREAS, despite the unique challenges faced by our state over the past year, more than 40 percent of providers took heroic measures to stay open to ensure essential employees including first responders and health care workers could receive quality care for their children while being on the frontlines serving our communities, and today, 99 percent of childcare providers are open; and**

**WHEREAS, the future of our state depends on the quality of the early education experiences provided to young children today; and**

**WHEREAS, Childcare Provider Appreciation Day is an opportunity to recognize childcare workers for their contributions in our children's lives and educate Floridians on the importance of early education.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 7, 2021, as *Childcare Provider Appreciation Day*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year two thousand twenty-one.**

  
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Governor