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Children's Day Returns to the State Capitol

Children's Week hosts educational and interactive activities for Florida's children

TALLAHASSEE, FL – February 27, 2024 – Today, state leaders, elected officials, child and youth advocates, partners, teachers, children and families came to the Capitol for Children's Day. The day began with a press conference featuring state leadership from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Health (DOH), Education (DOE) and Juvenile Justice (DJJ), as well as President Designate Senator Ben Albritton and Speaker Designate Representative Danny Perez.

Throughout the Capitol Courtyard, partners set up to engage children and families in interactive and educational activities. Florida legislators and local celebrities from Florida State University including Coach Mike Norvell, baseball and football stars joined for the annual Storybook Village and Legislator Lane where they read to young children.

Quotes from Children's Day's featured sponsor, Sunshine Health, state leadership, and participating local legislator's can be found below:

QUOTE FROM CHILDREN'S DAY FEATURED SPONSOR, SUNSHINE HEALTH

"We are grateful to be a longtime partner of Children's Week," said Nathan Landsbaum, president and CEO of Sunshine Health. "Each organization present at this special event is instrumental in caring for Florida's kids and youth, and it is a pleasure to work alongside them toward our common goal of serving Florida's children."

QUOTE FROM DCF, SEC. SHEVAUN HARRIS

"Florida has demonstrated what it means to prioritize the best interests of our state's children and youth through sound policy, strategic investments, and strong partnerships," said Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris. "Children's Week is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and magnify 'One Voice,' united around supporting resilient families. This week and all year, I encourage every Floridian to reflect on ways they can positively impact children in their lives and communities."

QUOTE FROM DJJ, SEC. ERIC HALL, PH.D.



"The eyes of the nation look to Florida as a leader in how we can best serve kids and families," said Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Erin Hall, Ph.D. "I am proud to work alongside our Governor, First Lady, the Florida Legislature, and state leaders to create and implement innovative ideas and services that will ensure a better and brighter future for Florida's kids. When we support them, we are building stronger communities and a better Florida for us all."

QUOTE FROM REP. JENNIFER CANADY

"Florida has continuously demonstrated leadership in prioritizing its children and families," said Representative Jennifer Canady. "I am honored to serve alongside my peers in creating policies and systems that continue this effort. Children's Week is a wonderful reminder that our work makes a large impact and investing in our children creates a better future for all of us."

QUOTE FROM REP. JOHN PAUL TEMPLE

"Children are our most precious resource and the greatest investment we can make," said Representative John Paul Temple. "As leaders in our communities, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to safeguard them and give them every chance for a successful life. I am proud of the on going work we are doing for our children."

QUOTE FROM REP. FIONA MCFARLAND

"Children's week is incredibly impactful bringing home to policymakers the very real reason we are all here to serve: our children, their families, and the future of our state," said Representative Fiona McFarland. "The thousands of hands that decorate our halls serve as a clear reminder of the impact of policy on our smallest citizens."

QUOTE FROM REP. TRACI KOSTER

"Our children are our future," said Representative Traci Koster. "As a state, we have a compelling interest to make sure we're giving our children all the tools, resources, and love they need to thrive."

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About Children's Week Florida™: Children's Week Florida™ is the largest annual event held in the state that celebrates its commitment to children, youth, and advocates. The event, held each year at the Capitol during the legislative session, seeks to elevate the diverse needs of Florida's children and youth to our state leaders while acknowledging their achievements.