



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Get Ready for Children's Week Florida™!**  
*Largest event in state celebrating Florida's future  
all week at the state Capitol*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** – Children's Week Florida™ is coming to the state Capitol February 25 - March 1, 2024. Thousands of attendees including young children, students, teachers, legislators, child and youth advocates, and families participate in events throughout the week. Together with its partners, Children's Week Florida™ elevates the message to our state leaders that every child deserves to be healthy, ready to learn, and able to achieve their full potential.

A schedule of Children's Week Florida™ events include:

**Celebration of the Hands (February 25 - March 1)** A larger than-life visual display of children's hand artwork from around the state. This beautiful work of art is hung in the Capitol Rotunda as a daily reminder to our state leaders that the future of our children rests in our hands. A Celebration of the Hands press conference on Sunday, February 25 will unveil this year's display.

**Advocacy Dinner & Awards Ceremony (February 26, 5:00 - 8:00 PM)** This event at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center features inspirational speakers, entertainment, and networking opportunities. In addition, recipients of the 2024 Chiles Advocate, Impact Advocate and Youth Advocate Awards will be announced.

**Children's Day at the Capitol (February 27, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM):** This fun-filled day includes interactive and educational activities, a complimentary breakfast and lunch, a statewide press conference, live youth entertainment, and more.

**Storybook Village & Legislator Lane (February 27, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM):** A signature Children's Day at the Capitol event where books are brought to life through song, dance, celebrity readers, and hands-on activities. All visitors receive free books and other goodies.

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Children's Forum, Inc. is accredited by Nonprofits First for excellence in sound nonprofit management.

**Speak Life End Bullying Film Screening (February 27, 6:30 PM)**: Students, representatives, dignitaries and community leaders are invited to a private screening of the nationally acclaimed film, *Speak Life End Bullying the Musical* at the Challenger Learning Center. A discussion on solutions to the teen mental health and bullying epidemic as well as a VIP reception will follow the screening.

**Teen Day at the Capitol (February 28, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM)**: This event invites middle and high school students to learn the legislative process, participate in a scavenger hunt, tour the old and new state house, and meet with lawmakers and lobbyists to discuss issues impacting youth in Florida. Over 100 youth from school districts across the state are signed up for Teen Day this year.

**Thoughtful Thursday (February 29, TBD)**: Log-in [here](#) for informational and engaging virtual workshops hosted by Children's Week Florida™ partners and advocates.

"Children's Week is one of my favorite events during the legislative session because it highlights our most important mission-making the world a better place for Florida's children," said Erin Smeltzer, President and CEO of the Children's Forum. "I am humbled for our team to have the opportunity to plan and coordinate all of the amazing activities throughout the week. It takes a village, however, and I would like to thank our partners, legislators, advocates, parents, teachers, families, and others who make Children's Week possible."

For more information about Children's Week Florida™, please visit [childrensweek.org](http://childrensweek.org) or call 850-487-6300.

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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.

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