



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lexie Savedge, lexie@saltermitchellpr.com, Cell: 813-482-5506

Countdown to 30 Years of Children's Week Florida™
Florida's largest annual event returns to the state Capitol for a milestone week of celebration

FLORIDA – March 17, 2025 – Children's Week Florida™ returns to the state Capitol for its 30th year, April 13 - 18, 2025. Florida's largest annual event will gather thousands of people from around the state to ensure every child is seen, heard and supported year-round. For five days, Children's Week events and activities will unite legislators, educators, child advocates, and community leaders to engage and connect on the issues that matter most for Florida's future.

"What began as a single day dedicated to prioritizing children in legislative discussions 30 years ago has grown into a statewide movement to create a better future for our kids," said Erin Smeltzer, President and CEO of the Children's Forum, organizing partner of Children's Week Florida™. "That's what I want people to remember about Children's Week. It's more than an event—it's a movement that strengthens our commitment to putting children first, not just this week but all year long."

To mark 30 years, Children's Week Florida™ has a new addition joining Storybook Village, where books are brought to life through song, dance and interactive storytelling. While Storybook Village is one of the most celebrated events of Children's Week, it can be overwhelming for some children.

Recognizing this gap in accessibility, Children's Week Florida™ has announced Storybook Garden, a new calming space that is designed to offer a quiet retreat and place to land for children with unique abilities and others who want to get away from the large crowds. It is a place where children of all abilities can fully participate in the day's events and activities in a setting and environment most comfortable to them and their needs.

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See a list of this year's events below:

- **Sunday, April 13, 3 pm:** [Celebration of the Hands Press Conference](#) - Join us as we unveil this year's artwork throughout the Capitol Rotunda
- **All Week!** [Celebration of the Hands](#) - Visit the Capitol Rotunda to view hand artwork from thousands of kids, teens, families, legislators and advocates around the state.
- **Monday, April 14, 5 pm:** [Advocacy Dinner & Awards Ceremony](#) - Connect with community leaders, child advocates, legislators and educators over dinner and hear from this year's recipients of the 2025 Chiles Advocate, Impact Advocate and Youth Advocate awards at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.
- **Tuesday, April 15, 9 am:** [Children's Day at the Capitol](#) - Children's Day kicks off with a press conference from Florida's leaders and elected officials, followed by a day packed with youth entertainment, and hands-on, engaging activities from Children's Week Florida™ partners, including Storybook Village and Storybook Garden, where stories are brought to life. Free breakfast and lunch will also be provided for all attendees.
- **Wednesday, April 16, 9 am:** [Teen Day at the Capitol](#) - Middle and high school students statewide meet members in the process to learn more about the legislative session, tour the state Capitol and discuss issues impacting Florida's youth.
- **Thursday, April 17, 10 am:** [Thoughtful Thursday](#) - A virtual event to wrap up the week through a series of sessions hosted by Children's Week Florida™ partners to explore key issues affecting Florida's children, teens and families.

To learn more about the week's events or register for an event, visit childrenswEEK.org.

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Children's Week Florida™ is grateful for its many partners who speak as one voice to ensure that Florida's children are healthy, ready to learn, and able to achieve their full potential. Its work would not be possible without their support.

- [Sunshine Health](#), Media and Press Conference partner
- [Walmart](#), Advocacy and Awards Ceremony partner
- [Children's Medical Services Health Plan](#), Children's Day partner
- [Humana Healthy Horizons](#), Celebration of the Hands partner
- [Farm Share](#), Food, Nutrition and Wellness partner
- [The Association of Early Learning Coalitions](#), Storybook Village partner
- [Molina Healthcare](#), Storybook Garden partner
- [Florida Institute for Child Welfare](#), Teen Day partner
- [Children's Forum](#), Organizing partner

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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.