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*The Week of the Young
Child™
April 23rd to April 30th, 2017*

Our Mission:
The Branford Early Childhood Collaborative is committed to ensuring that all Branford children and families are afforded the opportunity to develop a sound foundation for learning in the critical early years.

Dear Community Member,

When you think of that first time you walked into a classroom, what do you remember? Is it the sharp outfit you wore and the butterflies in the pit of your stomach? What about your teacher's name? Do you remember the Dick and Jane early reader books? I recently re-discovered my first early reader series, I See Sam and it brought back a flood of wonderful memories!

We believe in the value of literacy rich environments for children at home. **Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.** That is why we work so closely with our early childhood colleagues – our preschool, homecare and daycare teachers – to support activities and events that raise awareness about the importance of reading to children from birth.

This April 23rd to April 30th we are celebrating our annual literacy campaign, The Week of the Young Child™ with One Book One Town which gives over 900 free books to Branford children. This year's book, Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin honors families of all stripes and is a sweet celebration of what makes us unique—and what holds us together.

And much like this year's book, we are celebrating the role families play in our community by holding our Annual Art Walk as well as a Week of the Young Child™ event on April 30th from 1pm – 4pm at the Branford Early Learning Center. We will have hay rides, dancing, music, arts and crafts, hands-on activities, fire trucks, food, storybook characters, free play and more.

Today we are asking you for financial support to help us purchase books for every child. You can support a classroom, a school or even an entire grade level. We need your help to create long lasting memories for this next generation of children.

Together, with your help, we will improve the quality of early education and ensure that all Branford children and families are afforded the opportunity to develop a sound foundation for learning in the critical early years.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robin Comey

Collaborative Coordinator
203-415-5613 (cell)

Sponsors will be recognized in printed materials, signage and publicity.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| _____ Sponsor a Classroom \$100 | NAME _____ |
| _____ Sponsor a Preschool \$250 | ADDRESS _____ |
| _____ Sponsor a Grade Level \$500 | EMAIL _____ |

Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please mail checks to P.O. Box 1032 Branford, CT 06405