



**Mary Ford Early Learning &
Family Center**

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Media Release

Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center Celebrates Success of Week of the Young Child

Charleston, SC - Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center proudly celebrated the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) "Week of the Young Child" with a series of engaging activities centered around music, food, teamwork, the arts, and families.

The week, which started on April 7, 2025, kicked off with a special proclamation read by Michelle Simmons, Charleston County School District's Chief Academic Officer, emphasizing the importance of early childhood education and community involvement.

"Week of the Young Child" is a fun-filled week centered around the book "Wherever You Go" by Alexandra Penfold. Students began the week with Music Monday, making tambourines and singing songs. Tasty Tuesday was filled with dramatic play, tea parties, and an ice cream picnic. Classes played hopscotch, parachute games, and created a class kite for Work Together Wednesday. Children got to create their own kite with paper, paint, and playdough for Artsy Thursday. The week ended with drawing family portraits and children taking home a Family Bag to encourage play, art, and reading with their families.

The highlight of the week was the vibrant Art Show, which showcased the artistic talents of students. Held on Artsy Thursday, the event drew enthusiastic participation from the school community, with over 150 attendees. Guests were treated to a performance by the Mary Ford steel drum band, Haiku poems written by kindergarteners, and a STEM coding station. The exhibition, coordinated and curated by art teacher Regina Albaugh, featured a diverse range of student artwork, including captivating 2-D and 3-D projects and live performances, demonstrating the creativity and skill nurtured in Mary Ford's early learners.

Through the success of the Art Show and other engaging activities throughout the "Week of the Young Child," Mary Ford Early continues to emphasize the value of

early childhood education and community collaboration. The funds raised during the Art Show will support initiatives by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.