

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2021

Project I-LAUNCH celebrates National Week of the Young Child

Week of events to highlight Diné children

The Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH and Growing in Beauty announced on April 9, 2021 a planned week of events to recognize and celebrate National Week of the Young Child.

The 2021 Week of the Young Child takes place from April 10 - 16. In partnership with Arizona First Things First Navajo Region and the Office of President and Vice President, Project I-LAUNCH will host several virtual events throughout the week to highlight and celebrate our young Diné children, as well as their families, teachers, and strong communities.

Starting Monday April 12, 2021, the team will host themed events to recognize and involve our young Diné children and families:

- **Monday 4/12** – Music Monday: Young children across Navajo Nation will share their favorite traditional/cultural song virtually on Zoom & Facebook Live @ 3 pm – 5pm. Miss Navajo Nation, Shaadiin Parrish will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event.
- **Tuesday 4/13** – Tasty Tuesday: Growing in Beauty Parent Educators Lushaun Jack, Myrna Mitchell and Yolanda Tom will conduct a live virtual cooking demonstration featuring mini pizza, smoothie bowls, and peanut butter banana roll.
- **Wednesday 4/14** – Work Together Wednesday: A Drive-Thru Celebration for Families featuring Navajo Nation Early Care and Education Programs providing early childhood information and goodies safely to families. This event will take place at the Department of Diné Education building in the west parking lot from 10 am – 3pm.
**Participants will wear masks and practice safety protocols.*
- **Thursday 4/15** – Artsy Thursday: Local artist Sage Eriacho will present and demonstrate an art activity virtually that families can do with their children @ 3pm.
- **Friday 4/16** – Family Friday: A Navajo Nation Early Childhood Speaker Series event will feature a special message to children and families by Traditional Practitioner Kenneth Begay. This event will take place virtually 11 am – 1pm.

Project I-LAUNCH asks the public to join and spread the word for this important celebration. Our Diné children, families, educators, and communities have faced many adversities during the pandemic, but, most importantly, have displayed resilience and strength. We hope these events continue to spread awareness of the importance of early childhood and highlight our precious Diné children and families.

For more information refer to the event flyer or contact Kim Kee, Program Coordinator for Navajo Project I-LAUNCH at kimkee@nndode.org.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD EVENTS APRIL 12 - 16, 2021

All events can be viewed on the [Navajo Project I-LAUNCH Facebook Page](#) or joined on zoom. Links below

MUSIC MONDAY (APRIL 12TH)

Join in and listen to the youth and young children share their favorite traditional/cultural song on our Navajo Project I-LAUNCH Facebook Page.

@ 3pm. Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3s7IYkM>

TASTY TUESDAY (APRIL 13TH)

Join us as we share a cooking demonstration on pizzas and smoothie bowls that your family can make.

@ 1:30 PM on Facebook or join on zoom. Link: <https://bit.ly/3d0J8pB>

WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY (APRIL 14TH)

Join us at the Department of Diné Education back parking lot from 10 am - 3 pm to get information from early childhood programs. Please wear masks and roll down your back window to receive "goodies."

ARTSY THURSDAY (APRIL 15TH)

Join us as we will be sharing a fun DIY craft that you can easily create at home and share with others.

@ 3 PM Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3cYcGnU>

FAMILY FRIDAY (APRIL 16TH)

Tune into our 7th edition of our Early Childhood Speaker Series to learn more about strategies to support children and families to address trauma on zoom.

11 am to 1 pm zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3djvfLL>