

101 WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

1. Smile at a child
2. Volunteer for a children's agency
3. Start a Toy Lending Library
4. Take a child care provider to lunch
5. Write a letter to a legislator about child care
6. Campaign for better schools
7. Run for public office on a child advocacy platform
8. Sign up for a parenting workshop
9. Be a chaperon for the kindergarten class
10. Adopt a child care center and make a donation
11. Urge a local business to start up child care services for employees
12. Write a letter to the President of the United States of America to express your views on a children's issue
13. Hug a child
14. Sign up for Big Brothers, Big sisters, or a scout group as a volunteer
15. Visit three or more playgrounds and give them a children's fun rating
16. Hold a fire drill in your home for parents and children
17. Donate some new clothing for children to the community clothes bank
18. Check your child's nutritional habits
19. Send an apple to the teacher to show your appreciation for his/her commitment to children
20. Run for the school board
21. Give a child care provider a raise
22. Vow to spend as much time choosing child care as buying a car
23. Visit the library
24. Contact a lawyer to make a will and arrange for guardianship of your children
25. Attend a workshop on storytelling and put what you've learned to use
26. Initiate talks with employers about childcare benefits for working parents
27. Write a letter to the editor expressing concern for an issue related to children
28. Sponsor an art show of children's works
29. Give a book to your local library in honor of your child or another in the community
30. Volunteer to teach a religious education class for kids
31. Attend a musical concert with your child
32. Send a thank-you note to your own parents
33. Read a book about child development so you'll know how your child is growing
34. Do not feed your child peanuts or peanut butter until kindergarten to help prevent the development of peanut allergies
35. Hold a shower for the neonatal nursery at the local hospital
36. Sign up for counseling if your child seems to need it
37. Review the purposes of Little Leagues before signing up your child for the team
38. Keep a log of how much time you spend with your child and the activities involved
39. Discuss allowances and other family financial matters
40. Develop flex time policies for your company

41. Sponsor a parents' group at the work place
42. Post your child's latest drawing in a prominent place in your office
43. Write a proclamation or resolution in honor of the Month of the Young Child
44. Visit a local agency that serves children and families
45. Consider becoming a Foster Parent/Grandparent
46. Take a bag of safe toys to the homeless shelter for the children that are there
47. Think twice about offering your child any sip of alcoholic beverage
48. Count to twenty before yelling at your child
49. Play games with your child
50. Join the PTA/PTO and support your school
51. Schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss concerns about your child
52. Send to your legislator a piece of children's artwork to remind him/her the importance of children
53. Spend a hour at the local toy store with your child
54. Make a dental appointment for your child
55. Watch cartoons with your child and really pay attention
56. Check the ingredients of your child's favorite breakfast cereal
57. Let your child choose the activities for an entire Saturday afternoon
58. If you suspect someone is abusing a child, make a report to the local Children's Protection Program
59. Visit your children's grandparents or another person who likes children
60. Share your favorite children's book with a young child
61. Give a special discount for children in your store or restaurant
62. Take some time to draw on the sidewalk with a child
63. Attend a luncheon or sponsor one that recognizes the child advocates in your community
64. Put up a picture of children and families in your office
65. Attend a children's services fair to learn more about the services in your community
66. Make a donation to the local child abuse prevention agency
67. Sign up as a volunteer court watcher for children's cases
68. Send flowers to your childcare provider
69. Share a special hobby with a childcare provider
70. Make a doctors appointment for yourself to assure your own well being and ability to be a healthy parent
71. Listen to a favorite story with your child, no matter how many times you've heard that tape before
72. Take your child to a children's play or movie
73. Cuddle on the couch with your child and the family pet
74. Remember to take the childcare credit on your income tax
75. Try "magic painting" with a paintbrush and plain water
76. Start a savings account for your child
77. Send a donation to a Head Start program or other early childhood program in your community
78. Make a corporate donation to a children's agency
79. Sign up for a respite childcare and parent support program if your family is feeling stress
80. Teach your child and yourself to say "thank you" in another language

81. Sign up for a class in First Aid and CPR
82. Do a safety check in your home to see if all dangerous materials are out of a child's reach
83. Talk to a child about personal safety
84. Show a child how to cross the street safely
85. Give working parents time off to attend a school play or other event their child is in ...during working hours
86. Sponsor a family play day for employees and their kids
87. Read one story each day to a child and yourself
88. Read a book about positive parenting
89. Hold a "kids at the office" day so children see where their parents work
90. Send a letter to a television station expressing your concern or appreciation for children's programming
91. Sponsor a children's team or event in honor of the Month of the Young Child
92. Donate baby food to the local Food Bank
93. Sponsor a special worship service honoring children during the Month of the Young Child
94. Buckle up your own seat belt after making sure your child's belt is fastened
95. Have your child's picture taken
96. Recycle to assure a better environment for your child and yourself
97. Urge a local service club to make children #1
98. Install and test smoke detectors in your home
99. Buy a bond in your child's name
100. Look in on your child while he/she is sleeping
101. Hold a child's hand in yours, just for fun