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**WJHG-TV 7 NBC**

**Local Children's Agencies Preparing for Children's Week**

Staff Report

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Local children's agencies are preparing for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual statewide children's week celebration in Tallahassee. Today, early education and CARE's Head Start program and a host of other children's agencies held a pre-celebration for Children's Week which will actually take place next week at the state Capitol.

Head-Start classes and the Sand Box singers entertained the crowd with songs in both German and Spanish. Panama City Mayor Scott Clinton presented a proclamation declaring today as Parents' and Children's Day. EEC officials say the celebration is important to educating parents to be the voice for their children.

"To help people to understand, that children really don't vote, so therefore parents need to advocate on their behalf, so that the bills that are voted on in the Legislature are made with critical thinking." Pam Fleege, director, Early Ed & Care.

Children's Week will run from March 29 to April 6. The statewide event brings together thousands of parents, children and community leaders to discuss the children's issues.