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## **Children's Week Events at the State Capitol and Near You**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Starting this month, partners of [Children's Week](http://www.childrensweek.org) will host interactive events throughout the state leading up to and following the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Children's Week at the State Capitol – an advocacy event and celebration for Florida's children and youth happening Jan. 24-29. Local Children's Week events will be both fun and educational and include activities such as arts and crafts, live readings, luncheons, outdoor activities, parades and more. You can view a full listing of events by county on the [Children's Week website](http://www.childrensweek.org).

Coinciding with the legislative session, Children's Week serves as a platform for numerous organizations across the state to advocate for children's and family issues to Florida lawmakers. On its biggest day, Tuesday, Jan. 26, a variety of free activities for the entire family will take place at the State Capitol. One of the most popular events happening on Tuesday is the interactive Storybook Village hosted by the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of the Big Bend. This event allows over 2,000 children to see their favorite books come to life through art, music, drama and dance. This year's Storybook Village theme is "Where the Wild Things Are" and every child in attendance will receive a free copy of this book. Children and adults attending are encouraged to dress as their favorite storybook characters.

"Every child deserves to have access to books and every child deserves to be read to regularly. It is our goal that Storybook Village will inspire children and adults alike to read and to read together," said Morgan Evers, program services manager for the ELC of the Big Bend and coordinator of the Storybook Village. "It's a place where some children may hear a book read aloud for the first time and others will go home with their very first book. In a short time, Storybook Village has exponentially grown thanks to our amazing partners who donate time, effort, creativity, volunteers and supplies."

In addition to the Storybook Village happening on Tuesday, there also will be free Starbucks coffee and grab-and-go breakfast, free lunch from Newk's Eatery, guided tours of the Capitol, over 100 exhibitor booths to visit, a town hall meeting and youth advocacy workshop for middle and high school students, a chance to hear from legislators and a 10-year VPK birthday celebration.

For more information about Children's Week and events in your community, please visit [www.childrensweek.org](http://www.childrensweek.org).

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