

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Jim Bartoo: 833-1534 ext. 126
jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org

Zoo Hosts Kick-Off for *Week of the Young Child* **Free Zoo admission offered after 2 p.m. to children 12 and younger.**

On Saturday, April 12, Nashville Zoo welcomes Mayor Karl Dean to officially launch *Week of the Young Child*, a week of activities focused on early childhood education. The kick-off celebration begins at 3 p.m. and includes a proclamation from Mayor Dean, children's activities and entertainment.

As part of the celebration, the Zoo offers free admission beginning at 2 p.m. for children 12 and younger. At 3 p.m., Adam and the Couch Potatoes offer a free concert in the Zoo's amphitheater. After the concert, Mayor Dean proclaims the *Week of the Young Child*, and the program ends with Nashville Zoo's educational animal show. Afterward, guests are welcome to explore the Zoo and participate in an array of children's activities.

Week of the Young Child is sponsored by the Nashville Area Association of the Education of Young Children (NAAEYC), Vanderbilt University and other Nashville organizations. NAAEYC is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education and services for young children and their families. The purpose of *Week of the Young Child* is to focus attention on the rights and needs of young children. For information on other *Week of the Young Child* activities happening throughout Nashville, call NAAEYC at (615) 383-6292 or visit www.kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/woyc.

On April 15, 17 and 19, Nashville Zoo offers a special educational program for *Week of the Young Child*. Wild and Crafty Animal Tales includes animal stories, craft materials and a special animal guest. Each session will host a different surprise animal visitor. For more information and to register, please visit www.nashvillezoo.org/education.asp.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of the Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, please call 833-1534, or visit our website at www.nashvillezoo.org.

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