

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

**Declaring October 2019 as  
“Early Childhood Awareness Month”  
in Alachua County, Florida**

**Whereas,** Alachua County believes the wellbeing and education of our children determine the economic future of our state and the stability of the communities in which we live.

**Whereas,** we are citizens who have set out to give all children in Alachua County a strong start. We believe that prioritizing the early learning years should be at the forefront of our county and states agendas.

**Whereas,** Florida ranks poorly in how we invest in children. More than 325,000 children in Florida are uninsured. The state's prekindergarten program—a program which serves over 170,000 4-year-olds each year, does not meet most national standards. Only 4% of Florida's education budget is spent on programs that benefit children in the early childhood years.

**Whereas,** Alachua County supports the ideal of high-quality, accessible, and affordable children's health care, early childhood education and programs to help Florida parents be their best.

**Whereas,** Early Childhood Awareness Month is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibility, and to commit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of environment that will promote their early learning. Also, a month of engaging in directed discussion and debate on prioritizing early childhood.

**Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim September 2019, as “Early Childhood Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida.**

Duly proclaimed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair

ATTEST:

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J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.