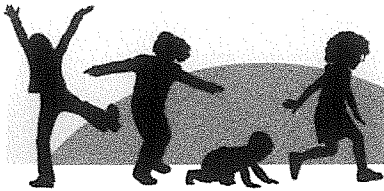


CHILDREN'S



RESOURCE & REFERRAL OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The mission of Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County is to develop strong and healthy families by providing education, care, and resource systems to children, their parents, and caregivers, with a special emphasis on low income and under-represented children and families.

www.sbfcc.org

TO: City Council
RE: New Zoning Ordinance for Child Care

Dear City Council,

On behalf of Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County, we would like to thank the Goleta City Staff, Planning Commission and Council for the work that has been done to support access to child care throughout the City of Goleta. We would ask that the City Council approve the New Zoning Ordinance on November 5, 2019.

As the Resource & Referral for Santa Barbara County, it is our responsibility to support increasing access to quality child care. Through our Quality Programs we are able to support individuals through start-up of new family child care sites, and expansion of existing family child care sites. Our goal is simple, create more quality child care spaces for children. Unfortunately, when there is heavy regulation, this process can be long, costly and ultimately discouraging. The proposed changes enable Early Childhood Educators, working toward becoming a Licensed Child Care Provider, to obtain their license with fewer barriers.

With more parents in the workforce than ever before, there is a great need to create and sustain quality child care for families. Every parent needs the peace of mind that their child is healthy, safe, and is being prepared for success in school. Children need a secure, nurturing and educational learning environment to grow and thrive. In turn, Employers need a workforce that is focused, engaged and work-ready. When there is access to high-quality child care for all children, these necessities become possibilities.

Research shows that "high quality, intensive early care and education programs for low-income children can have lasting positive effects such as greater school success, higher graduation rates, lower juvenile crime, decreased need for special education services later and lower adolescent pregnancy rates." Quality Early Childhood Education and Child Care from Birth to Kindergarten, (Pediatrics Vol. 115 No. 1 January 1, 2005, pp. 187 -191.)

We are excited that Goleta has taken the lead with your work on increased access to child care. As Children's Resource & Referral, we would like to share this model that Goleta has designed and advocate for this across our County and even further advocate for California State implementation.

Michelle Lee Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Jaqui Banta
Chief Operating Officer

[Handwritten signatures and notes: "LH", "Berrie", "Miriam", "Rachel", "Paul", "Dene", "W.P.H.", "Chris"]