

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

5/6/2019

Goleta City Council
Goleta Planning Commission

Dear City Council and Planning Commission members,

As a local child advocate, I want to let you know how thrilled I am that you are reviewing ways that the city can help pave the way for more child care in Goleta. It is desperately needed, not just for residents, but for the employees of the existing and future businesses that operate here. We know that working parents want only the best for their children. Child care can be one of the greatest challenges that you will have in raising your child. We know that you want your children to be safe and have fun while they learn at their child care. Nothing is worse than worrying about your child when you are at your job. Family Child Care Steps to Quality Program is designed to support a provider's commitment to creating a high quality child care program. Research shows that children thrive in high quality child care. In an effort to increase high quality child care in Santa Barbara County, Children's Resource & Referral has created this Program to focus on four elements of success: Education of the Provider; High Quality Environments; Strong Business Practices; and Relationships.

At Children's Resource & Referral, we are often witness to the many obstacles that prevent potential Child Care Providers in obtaining their license such as start-up costs, certifications, permits...etc. Not to mention, the challenges families face in finding affordable, high-quality child care programs for their children (specifically infants). Children's Resource & Referral works diligently to support Providers and Families, but continue to face challenges with cost and accessibility.

Specifically, I strongly support:

- Making large family child care "by right" like small family child care
- Allowing child care centers in more zones, and reducing the permit requirements as much as possible.
- Including child care in the Beneficial Projects category
- The City's focus on child care policies, and identifying ways to encourage more child care.

The changes that are being made now, with the changes to the zoning policies and development fees and the assignment of planning staff time will certainly have an impact that will provide a benefit for a long time. Please continue to go deeper to really make a difference. There are many experts in this county, and many models you can follow that will help ensure the policies are solid, and actually do increase child care spaces.

I urge you to continue to review all the ways that the city can influence the development of child care resources in the community.

Thank you

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