

**Subject:** Support for Apple Playschools' Child Care Project at 503 Miller Ave

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**From:** Phil Santer

**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 7:33 PM

**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

**Subject:** Support for Apple Playschools' Child Care Project at 503 Miller Ave

Dear Planning Commission Staff,

I am writing to express my full support for Apple Playschools' proposed Child Care project at 503 Miller Ave.

As a member of the Ann Arbor community, I have been actively involved in our organization's efforts to address the pressing challenges of childcare in our market. Ann Arbor SPARK has convened a childcare coalition aimed at tackling the significant need for additional childcare slots in Washtenaw County. Through this coalition, with participation from Apple Playschools and other stakeholders, we have identified the immense demand for childcare services, coupled with the highest-priced care in the state of Michigan (you can read our current reports here: <https://annarborusa.org/childcare/>).

In light of these findings, I am particularly compelled to endorse Apple Playschools' expansion project. The shortage of licensed child care spots in our county, with only one spot for every 7 children under the age of 5, has had profound implications for families and our local workforce. The proposed center's addition of 47 more daily spots will help alleviate this strain while also contributing to the economic vitality of our community.

Situated on a commuter corridor, the center's accessibility by bus, walking, and bike not only aligns with our city's sustainability goals but also provides a convenient option for families and commuters alike. Furthermore, Apple Playschools' commitment to supporting its teachers and increasing tuition scholarships underscores their dedication to fostering a more sustainable workforce and ensuring broader access to quality child care services.

I hope the Planning Commission grants the necessary Special Exception Use approval for Apple Playschools' Child Care expansion project. This initiative not only addresses a critical community need but also aligns with our city's long-term sustainability and economic development objectives.

Thank you for considering my input on this matter!

Phil Santer

Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff

[Ann Arbor SPARK](#)

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