

From: Planning
Subject: Strong Support for Apple Playschools' Child Care Project at 503 Miller Ave

From: Erin Fink
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:01 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Cc: Etta Heisler; Amanda Lodge
Subject: Strong Support for Apple Playschools' Child Care Project at 503 Miller Ave

Hi,

My name is Erin Fink. I'm a current Ann Arbor resident living at 2254 Rivenoak Ct. and the mother of an 18-month-old child who's in need of quality day care for my toddler. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Apple Playschools' proposed Child Care project at 503 Miller Ave. As a parent and resident invested in the well-being of our community, I believe that this initiative has the potential to address a critical need for accessible child care in our area.

Child care access, or the lack thereof, has been a significant challenge for my family, as I have personally experienced difficulties in securing reliable care for my child. I have pieced together care with a short-term nanny, temporary nanny share with neighbors, and having family visit to care for my child while I worked. Eventually, I had to switch jobs so I could have the flexibility to care for my child while waiting for a spot in a child care center. It is disheartening to note that in Washtenaw County, there is only one licensed child care spot for every seven children under the age of five. The prolonged waitlists and limited availability have not only strained our family but have also had a profound impact on other caregivers I know, hindering their ability to participate in the workforce.

The proposed child care center at 503 Miller Ave is a beacon of hope, offering spots for an additional 47 children daily. Its proposed location on a commuter corridor is a huge benefit to parents commuting into or out of town for work. The accessibility by bus, walking, and bike aligns seamlessly with our city's sustainability goals, providing a convenient option for families seeking reputable and reliable child care solutions.

Moreover, the proximity to several proposed routes for the Treeline urban trail adds an extra layer of convenience and community connectivity.

As someone interested in the best available care for all children, I am encouraged by the additional revenue this center stands to generate for Apple Playschools, which I'm told will allow it to increase teacher pay and offer more tuition scholarships, the latter of which ought to make child care more accessible for a broader range of families in our community.

I wholeheartedly endorse Apple Playschools' Child Care project at 503 Miller Ave. It is an essential step towards addressing the pressing child care needs in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Erin

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Erin Fink