

Subject: Apple Playschools proposed project at 503 Miller Ave

From: Alexandra Gross

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:44 AM

To: Loren Bondurant; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Apple Playschools proposed project at 503 Miller Ave

Dear Planning Commission,

We are the parents of a child who attends Manzanitas Spanish Immersion School, part of the Apple Playschools organization. We're writing in support of Apple Playschools' proposed Child Care project at 503 Miller Ave.

Our daughter has attended Manzanitas for the last two years, and we couldn't be happier with the program. We feel very fortunate that she is able to attend a high quality preschool that values families and staff alike. There is a major childcare shortage in our area (and nationwide), with only one licensed child care spot for every seven children under the age of five. We had to wait for months for our spot and Manzanitas and we know many families who have struggled or are currently struggling to find childcare.

The proposed new center will help alleviate the childcare shortage by providing space for 47 more children daily. The location is easily accessible for commuters coming downtown for work, as well as for bus riders, walkers or bikers. The additional revenue from this center would allow Apple Playschools to increase teacher pay and increase tuition scholarships, making child care careers more sustainable for teachers and childcare more accessible to more families in the area.

We strongly believe that families have a right to high quality childcare and that early childhood educators deserve to be paid fair wages for the incredibly important work that they do. Please support this project and the children, families and early childcare educators who will benefit from it.

Thank you,

Sasha Gross and Loren Bondurant