

From: Stephanie Utterback [REDACTED] >

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:01 PM

To: Caren Ray Russom <crayrussom@arroyogrande.org>; kbarniech@arroyogrande.org <kbarniech@arroyogrande.org>; Jim Guthrie <jguthrie@arroyogrande.org>; Lan George <lgeorge@arroyogrande.org>; Kate Secrest <ksecrest@arroyogrande.org>

Subject: Arroyo Grande- Rec Preschool

Dear Arroyo Grande City Council Members,

Thank you for your service to our city and for taking the time to read this email. Our family have been citizens of Arroyo Grande for over 12 years. We have three children. They are 10, 7 and 4. We feel so blessed to be able to live and thrive here. We know we don't need to tell you how high the cost of living is or about the sacrifices that need to be made in order to provide the kind of life we want for our children.

The saying, "It takes a village" is probably truer today (and in our area specifically) than it was 5 years ago and we have been lucky to have the Play and Learn Preschool at the AG Recreation Department as part of our village. Because of this exemplary service, all three of our children were able to attend preschool. Quality preschool in our area is a luxury. Tuitions are steep and schedules are strict. It is very difficult to find an affordable part time preschool. The Play and Learn Preschool provides that for families in our community.

Along with offering an affordable option for preschool, the Play and Learn Preschool has exemplary teachers. They are educated, kind, and have a dedicated investment in our community and children. As employees of the city, the teachers are active members in the area. Our children see them at city events and even at their elementary schools after they have graduated from the preschool. There is something unique and special about seeing your teachers beyond the classroom. It has helped our children develop a bond between themselves and the community.

Continuing to provide a city run preschool through the recreation department is a testament to the value our community has for its families, children and their education. Please do not close this beloved preschool. Our community needs, and deserves, a preschool that is high quality, affordable and with teachers who are invested in the future of the city.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to hear more about our experiences at the Play and Learn Preschool.

Kind Regards,

Stephanie and Brian Utterback