

From: [Stephanie Lin](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - NOT ON THE AGENDA
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:07:27 PM

To The Los Altos City Council:

I have included below comments from dozens of community members collected over the past two weeks.

Tiny Tots has been a cornerstone of the Los Altos community for over 50 years. I am also including a picture of the class of 1994-95 as a testament to the history of this program.

This program is being closed without sufficient notice to staff, parents, and community members. Staff have over 45 years combined experience in the program and deserve better. Further, this decision was made with limited transparency - sharing only top-line financial numbers rather than a breakdown of expenses by program and category that we could all learn from.

Parents are scrambling as preschool enrollment season has already started. This is a part-time program, and as such TK is not an alternative for the program. This program uniquely offers both a high degree of child-led free play and a gradual introduction to academics whereas most other programs out there fall on one side of the spectrum or the other. It's a special program with amazing teachers - please do not make the assumption that they will choose to work for a different operator.

We would request that you place this issue on the council agenda for the next city council meeting.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Lin on behalf of the Tiny Tots community

From Maggie Kwan: Please raise tuition and let's find ways to keep the program!

From Marina Eisenbud: Expanded TK doesn't replace this program! I relied on it for summer preschool care when my kids were too young to go to TK or other summer camps. Please save this childcare option for parents who need it

From Rachel Massaro: As a community health researcher studying Silicon Valley, I can say that affordable, quality preschools are much needed resources for our regional wellbeing. I hope you will consider the request to keep this preschool program running.

From Susanne Wisén: My daughter is now in 7th grade and went to Kinderprep the year before she started kindergarten. She absolutely loved every minute of it! Miss Sarah and Miss Meryl are very engaged, creative and are fantastic with the kids! The concerts and the graduation they were performing to us parents were amazing. It would really be a shame to close this well functioning preschool. As I understand it, there was a waitlist for this year's kinderprep - what is the reason for closing it?

From Jane Holt: I was in a wheelchair when my kids were born and Tiny Tots was the only childcare place willing to talk to me and accommodated with a ramp.

From Jena Wise: I would be sad and disappointed to see the city close such a wonderful part of our community!

From Elizabeth Stewart: We love this school, it was a saving grace for River when he started in the 3's class. He's loved it so much and we don't want to see it go. All the teachers are so amazing and we have so many fond memories.

From Citlali Tolia: We loved this program! Teachers were so amazing and loving and it would be a huge blow to Los Altos families to take this away when it's already so hard to find high quality, affordable early childhood education!

From Beth Kelly: Our younger son attended Tiny Tots back in the late 80's. Friendships formed then still continue. Back then, we probably could have afforded a more expensive option, but the values and social skills taught there outshone any other local options. As a former Title 1 Reading Specialist in the Los Altos schools, I have known local families who benefited from the affordability of this program.

From Kjell and Helene Karlsson: The Tiny Tots and Kinder-Prep programs are wonderful and such a great resource. The children that do not qualify for TK in Los Altos School District benefit greatly. It was instrumental for our child in 2016 since he was not ready to start K and he did not qualify for TK. We sent him to Kinder-Prep and it was a game changer.

From Leigh Burns Quan: This preschool is still near and dear to my heart even though I haven't worked here in nearly 10 years. This was an idyllic place for children to explore, play, create, and learn. I always speak fondly of Tiny Tots and am deeply saddened at the thought of a childcare corporation taking over.

From Muhammad Wang: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed privatization of the Tiny Tots preschool program. This program is not just a service; it's a community institution that has served Los Altos families for over fifty years. Its impact on early childhood development and community building is immeasurable.

Firstly, the Tiny Tots program is a testament to the city's commitment to inclusivity and equality. It offers a unique opportunity for children from diverse backgrounds to learn, grow, and interact, setting a foundation for a more cohesive community. Privatization risks increasing tuition fees, which could make the program inaccessible to lower-income families, thus eroding this important social fabric.

Moreover, the program's success is partly due to its experienced and passionate educators, who are more than just teachers; they are mentors and community builders. Their dedication is evident in the quality of care and education they provide. Handing over this program to a private entity could lead to staff changes that may not uphold these high standards, further

impacting the quality of early childhood education available to our children.

While I understand the financial considerations, I believe the city has not fully explored all alternatives. The suggestion of raising tuition, for instance, should be revisited and assessed in conjunction with other fundraising or cost-saving strategies. The community is ready to rally and support such initiatives to keep this program under city management.

Privatizing Tiny Tots is a short-term solution with long-term consequences. It's not just about balancing the city's budget; it's about investing in our children's future and the overall well-being of our community. I strongly urge the city to reconsider this decision and work with parents, educators, and community members to find a viable solution to keep Tiny Tots as a city-run program.

I implore the city council and management to see the inherent value in Tiny Tots and to prioritize the educational and social needs of our youngest residents over short-term financial gains. Let's work together to maintain the integrity and accessibility of this beloved program.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Wang

From Patrick Ring: I wish I was able to attend Tiny Tots like my younger sister. She always came home with a smile on her face and fun stories to share. Please save this program.

From Leea Guy: Let me know when we go to city council, I will be there! He is talking about a loss of \$300,000 that is pennies compared to a multi million dollar project like the police building. \$300,000 will barely get them anywhere. He would rather have a private preschool in there, instead of a city operated program, that has been running for years? Clearly he is not for the small town city feel, and to do it without asking the parents. This is absurd!!!

From Alice Ring: My memories at Tiny Tots are priceless. I'll never forget Tad the turtle and riding bikes in the back. I hope you will save this fun program so that other kids can make the kind of memories I did.

From Thea and Steve Merrill: These early years are so important to children's development and their readiness for school -- all of which are, in turn, important in their ability to grow and flourish as adults and members of our communities. These programs need to remain publicly funded and run!

From Erin Tressler: Tiny Tots is an amazing place and a wonderful resource for Los Altos as one of the few affordable and amazing preschools (including the teachers) in the area.

From Jane Vaden:

From Jessica Behrmann: What terrible news to hear about such a wonderful and affordable preschool program. Our son loved his Kinder Prep experience and our daughter is enjoying Tiny Tots this year. It's a huge blow to us to possibly not be able to send her to Kinder Prep next year.

From Patty Hurley: Parent Involvement is what made Tiny Tots special.

From Jayanti Sharma: We love Tiny Tots and their teachers! Please save the schools for our local community for it is a gem and loved by all!

From Ted Wertheimer: Please don't break things that are working!

From Danika Dellor: The kinder-prep program was outstanding. Our daughter thrived and the quality of teaching and activities were excellent. Please do not eliminate this program!

From Chandani Tamang: This school would help us as parents to go back to work.

From Jeannette Ring: Tiny Tots was a program we fell in love with for our younger child. We all wish we had known about it for our oldest as well. It's a great service to the community that you cannot find nearby and I hope the council can visit and see the magic happen! Play is important!

From James Ring: My daughter loved attending Tiny Tots. I have so many fond memories of those years, and she does too. It would be a terrible shame to outsource this wonderful program.

From Claudia Meyer: Tiny Tots Pre School is unique in its capacity to foster community. The learn through play philosophy , parents aiding in the classroom several times per session, students building local friendships lasting through their school years in Los Altos , families building friendships and a learning environment that instills the love of learning at an early age, Tiny Tots is a true Los Altos treasure. I still run into former students & families that tell me their now adult "kids" are still friends with those they went to Tiny Tots with. Another frequent comment I hear from former parents: "Tiny Tots gave our children the best start in school!" I am very proud of that as I am sure the teachers that have followed me after I retired are proud too, and also the teachers who proceeded me. It would be a shame to see this popular program offered to children in our community for so many years be lost forever. "

From Catherine Dellor : Tiny Tots was a fantastic preschool experience for my granddaughter.

From Linda Roy: Preschool programs are so important!!

From Victoria Hambly: We need this community service! Private preschool is incredibly expensive and unaffordable for a good percentage of local families.

From GayLynn Ribeira: My third child attended kinder prep and it was a phenomenal experience. It had a beautiful balance of creative play and exploration while simultaneously providing a strong intro to reading and writing. I have four kids and of all the various preschools we attended, this one was my favorite. If we still lived in Los Altos, it is where I would prefer to send my youngest. Each staff member was caring and competent. My son was always happy to be there. He was well prepared for kindergarten too. I really feel it would be a mistake to let this team go. They have served the community so well and have helped countless kids and families for 50 years. Give them more time. They are the best!

From Jacy Tse: We love Tiny Tots preschool. Miss Estela, Miss Juliet and Miss Soniya are wonderful teachers and phenomenal human beings who bring so much love, creativity and excitement to the kids' life.

From Heather Katta: This school is very special and it will be a tremendous loss if it is closed.

From Chrishnika Paul: The city's KinderPrep program was so valuable to all three of our children who are now in 7th and 4th grades. The experience far exceeded what they received at a top-rated private preschool (Children's Center). They had a truly memorable time in KinderPrep.

From Melanie Hinse: These programs are fabulous and benefit the community. Keep Tiny Tots alive!!

From Katherine Carpenter: We did not live in Los Altos when my children were attending preschool, but they attended a similar program subsidized by our old city, and it was so valuable! There are not many affordable options for preschools, and not many options for part-time preschools, so all independent options should stay available to families.

From Meeta Mashru: Please keep the program. It is super helpful for kids.

From Anusha Natarajan: Please save the preschool!

From Sarah Wu: This was such a high quality program, especially Kinder Prep with Ms. Sara and Ms. Meryl, at an affordable price. I truly hope the city will reconsider.

From Andrea Barnett: Please allow this excellent and cost effective program to continue and not be privatized

From Jonathan Wu: Sent 2 of our children to Tiny Tots and found it was invaluable to their education and upbringing. The fact that the program costs money should not be an issue as tax paying families are enjoying the program and the students from this program move on to

LAHS which benefits from early enrichment. This program, led by Ms Sarah and Ms Meryl, is an investment into the community which would be much less effective without them.

From Marie Rosland: Happy, secure and educated children grow up to be secure adults and less likely to need police intervention. Ignored and undereducated children may well be the policing problem of the future.

From Kay Chin: Ms. Sara, Ms. Meryl, and Ms. Estela are so great + deserve to keep teaching as long as they want to !

From Yvonne Hildebrand: we should provide good preschool services in our neighborhood

From Ben & Jessica Mullen: Please don't make Los Altos even more unaffordable than it already is! Community programs such as these are the fabric of what makes Los Altos the community it is. Silicon Valley is full of companies that want to "optimize" and turn a profit, please keep this slice of the community from being polluted by capitalism. We will 100% be voting and campaigning against anyone who slowly degrades the Los Altos community privatizing its city programs.

From William Hsu: Both our granddaughters benefited from the Tiny Tot preschool program. The younger one is currently a student; she is enrolled since September, 2022. The older one graduated a few years ago and is currently a student at BCS. Both of them flourished in Tiny Tot. The teachers are tremendous. They are experienced, caring, organized and well prepared. The lessons and games are intertwined so the children are learning and having fun at the same time. The younger one, who is currently enrolled, likes Tiny Tot so much that she looks forward to going to school and hugging her teachers every morning. She responds so well and is so used to the current environment and teachers that the proposed outsourcing of Tiny Tot to a private vendor will bring irreparable disruption and harm to her learning and growth. I hereby respectfully ask the City to reconsider the outsourcing plan for Tiny Tot.

From Joann Barboudesplaces: Both boys (now in high school) attended Tiny Tots and loved the program.

From Anne Schmidt: Tiny Tots is a wonderful asset to Los Altos. Please reconsider privatizing this amazing preschool.

From Ray Abrishami: Tiny Tots has been a valuable part of Los Altos Community

From Leeanne Kromer: I'd hate to see the tradition of Tiny Tots disappear

From Andrei Selikhanovich: Please save the Tiny Tots and Pre Kinder programs for parents and community. They are the best and affordable pre kinder programs with highly

experienced and dedicated teachers.

From Nancy Tucker: I have already written the Los Altos City Council requesting that this issue be placed on City Council agenda.

From Mary Chin: Los Altos needs this program for Pre-Kindergarten learning in preparation for entering Elementary School. Ms. Sara and Ms. Meryl are wonderful with the children.