

Debra Thompson

From: Brian Smith <brmsmith6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Support for Childcare Support

Hello Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing in both general and specific support of the recent efforts to push toward Borough support of childcare in town. We have two children in childcare age, and childcare is such an incredibly important yet undervalued piece of our society. I think providing Borough support of our local childcare facilities and staff is a great idea and starting point for shifting to value this resource more.

I wasn't able to attend the March 23 work session, but I heard there was a specific proposal about a training incentive package. I think the Borough should support this proposal, and I hope the Borough can continue to find ways to be supportive of our childcare facilities and staff.

I know some assembly members may have reservations, either because they want childcare support to come from a higher level of government, or perhaps because they are not on board at all with public support of childcare. I would like to point out the absurdity of our childcare situation in America: we fully support public education and place huge value and financial support of our children once they hit 5 years old. But before children hit kindergarten, families are totally on their own. I know some people believe that one parent should simply stay at home with children under 5, but even if a family did want to do that these days, it's become significantly less economically feasible to do so compared to a generation ago - housing costs alone have just outpaced wage growth so significantly that most families can't afford a decent place to live on one income. Families with young children have the highest housing cost burden - they don't have the luxury and stability of having purchased a home 10-20 years ago before housing costs ballooned to their current levels.

Please do what you can to support our local childcare providers.

Thank you,
Brian Smith