

Debra Thompson

From: Molly Miller <mollymiller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Early Childhood Task Force

Dear Assembly members,

Thank you for being of service to our community and acknowledging topics of concern. A topic of high concern for all members of our community, for well over a decade, has been early childhood development. The core of the problem here is worker retention within this field. The lack of qualified workers within this field then reduces the number of daycare spots available to working parents. This in turn has operating issues with the industries and businesses that make up our community. Having children of our own or not, this lack of qualified childcare in Petersburg reaches many in our town. Ready to work, educated parents find keeping kids within their care at home pencils out rather than stepping into the workforce in our community.

I support the creation of an Early Childhood Education Task Force to take a closer look at the logistics and operations of why this is and what the community can do to support and create a solid foundation in the Early Childhood field. Local, State and Federal governments support the funding of school aged children. (5-18) Children of younger age (newborn-5) need support and a proper, quality foundation.

The Task Force could come up with a facilitator to assist in organizing the group, obtain a community study and then go forward with logical requests.

Some of these requests are not necessarily out of reach for a local government to assist with. These could be in the form of assisting to host a summer day camp, providing an already present borough space (land or building), paying into a fund based upon Borough employee daycare usage, offering a flex spending account to Borough employees that involve childcare. Let the Task Force inform the community on ways that we can all assist with this perpetual shortage of space and quality supervision involving our pre-public school aged kids and summer care for younger school aged children.

Thank you for your service,
Molly Taiber