

From: Krista Andrzejczak [<mailto:kristaandrzejczak@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 10:35 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Preschool and Daycare

Hello! My name is Krista, and I am writing in support of Children's Therapy Services' initiative to create Little Owls Preschool and Daycare.

My son, Korbin, was born 10 weeks early back in 2013 at 2 lbs 2 oz, and has had a very difficult road. After being delivered in Rapid City, he was life flighted to Denver at just 11 days old. He had a life-threatening illness that required two surgeries, and left him with brain damage, seizures and cerebral palsy, just to name a few things. We have had to continue his specialist care in Denver, but we also were in a predicament when it came to therapy options.

We currently reside in Spearfish, and had Korbin enrolled in the Birth to Three program locally. For approximately two years, we had therapists come to our home, and show me very well what Korbin was not doing-all the milestones he wasn't meeting. I tried asking for "homework," for equipment options, for guidance and hope and reassurance that I wasn't just a crazy mom for believing my son could and would do anything other kids do. But I was continually discouraged and frustrated by the mere lack of support we received. After learning there were no other pediatric therapy specialists in Spearfish, I resorted to finding therapists in Denver to treat Korbin, and drove down weekly to have him seen. They were able to help us get equipment for him- a bath chair, walking/gait trainer, and a wheelchair/stroller, as well as leg braces/orthotics. Earlier this year we completed a couple intensive therapy sessions where we spent nearly the entire month of January and several weeks of March in Denver for physical, occupational, feeding, and some speech therapy. As you can imagine, this was extremely difficult for our family- financially, physically and emotionally. Our OT in Denver reached out to Children's Therapy Services, and Korbin began visits in late June. I want to say, I am so thankful to have CTS. The amazing staff have given Korbin the best care, and have given me the tools and knowledge I need to help my son progress. They have renewed my faith in humanity and local health care, and have given Korbin so much love and compassion, and have helped open so many doors for him. They have helped confirm my belief that Korbin is capable of so many wonderful things. Korbin has shown more progress in the last six months of visiting CTS than he did the entire two years being seen more locally.

We travel from Spearfish twice a week to receive PT, OT, feeding and speech therapy, and are now considering relocating to Rapid City because of the idea of Little Owls Preschool.

You see, the only preschool for exceptional children here in Spearfish is filled with the same therapists we were disappointed with previously. The same therapists that did not know of resources for equipment; that could not give me the guidance I sorely needed, or the care that Korbin deserved. It is incredibly disheartening and frustrating.

I will admit, I am not entirely familiar with all the programs available in Rapid City. However, I can assure you that there is no other place; no other loving, caring, experienced personnel that I would rather trust my son to. With all the success he has had so far, my only hope is to continue to help him grow and learn and thrive, and I feel that he would have the best chance of that with the new family we have acquired at Children's Therapy Services. And this is just one person's story...imagine the possibilities if EVERY child was met and treated with such passion and drive. Early intervention is crucial to exceptional children and their families, and I can't help but feel there aren't enough options for early intervention in

our area. I feel the area is in desperate need of information and resources, such as options for necessary equipment or sensory development, and I feel Little Owls would be an amazing addition to the community.

We are forever grateful for everything CTS has provided, and are extremely hopeful for their future, as well as ours. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Krista Andrzejczak

From: Patty Dail [<mailto:padjck@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 8:06 AM
To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>
Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Dear Mr. Laroco,

I am sending this email in support of the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. I support this business because of the services they are wanting to provide. We have a huge gap in Rapid City regarding daycares and preschools that are equipped and qualified to provide the services that Little Owl is wanting to provide, especially sensory development, which we are seeing as an issue more and more in the public schools. I have also visited with the owner, Justin, about eventually being able to provide after school care for special needs students who age out of traditional day cares and their families literally have no options available to them.

Please consider this email as supporting Little Owls Daycare and Preschool.

Patty Dail

Dean of Students

Rapid City Area Schools

605-484-1896

From: Joey Riggert [<mailto:jriggert@childrenstherapyservicesd.com>]

Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 9:43 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joseph Riggert, CCC-SLP, with Children's Therapy Services. I have been employed with this company since 2013, where I was one of the first Speech-language Pathologists hired on to fulfill a role as a traveling speech therapist - primarily on the Pine Ridge Reservation. My job included providing education and speech/language therapy to children aged birth-five years. CTS was contracted through the OST Early Intervention Program. Upon starting their endeavor with providing speech therapy, I was a crucial aspect of the growth in general, but also was able to watch the company expand their business and mission outlook as a whole.

Fast forward to current times, CTS is moving forward in providing therapy to the Rapid City area in addition to outside locations across the whole western portion of South Dakota. We have soon outgrew our current location and pulled the trigger on a new location, which will provide our company with ample room to grow and build our therapy services. This new building gives us the opportunity, of yet, another business venture - Little Owls Daycare. The goal of this daycare will aim to enroll children of all walks of life - whether they are typically developing or if they have been diagnosed with a disability. From my understanding as a therapist, many of the current patients I see, along with my colleagues, have difficulty getting enrolled in a daycare, preschool, or head start as a result of their disability or various deficit. With Little Owls Daycare, parents will be able to drop off their child or children, knowing they will have a chance to build their academic and social skills just like any other developing child. Since CTS' business will be right there, therapy will also be provided 'in-house' rather than taking the time and effort by parents to bring their kids in for the therapy they would receive any way.

I hope the reader takes the time to consider Children's Therapy Services' venture for Little Owls Daycare of providing learning opportunities for kids of all developmental statuses. Personally, I think this will be a great feature of Rapid City and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Joseph D Riggert, MSE, CCC-SLP

Children's Therapy Services

-----Original Message-----

From: Good, Holly [<mailto:Holly.Good@k12.sd.us>]

Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 1:17 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls daycare

Dear Mr. Laroco-

I was THRILLED to hear of the daycare/preschool potential for Little Owls. As a special education teacher for 23 years, I see the preschool/quality daycare for all children, but even moreso students having special needs. The Casey's are absolutely committed to the needs of all children but especially those having special needs. The prospect of such a daycare/preschool warms my heart. I hear sad tales from so many parents that they are unable to work because no daycares will take their children. These children already have a rough start to life, giving them appropriate role models they need as well as the services to assist in speech/gross/fine motor/social does nothing but get them even more prepared for hitting Kindergarten. This is an amazing opportunity for kids, families and the community. Please allow them to move forward with this project so we can have an even brighter future for ALL of our kids!

Sincerely,

Holly Good

Good, Holly

holly.good@k12.sd.us

From: Bobbie Jo Richmond [<mailto:bobbiejor@agentsins.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>
Cc: justincasey3@hotmail.com
Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool.

Good Morning Robert,

Justin and Dan Casey have been committed to children's health and wellbeing in this community for years. Their services are ESSENTIAL to the growth of children in this and surrounding areas. To have a place where parents can take their kids for therapy as well as childcare would benefit this community tremendously. I feel there is a need for a facility like this, as no others currently exist locally.

As a parent, I can imagine the difficulties of finding resources for therapy and childcare so, to be able to find both in one place would be convenient and beneficial for the child and parents involved. Justin and Dan are familiar with the necessity and importance of effective hiring of qualified staff and I have no doubt this practice would transfer to the daycare operations as well. Children are our legacy and we owe them every opportunity to grow and become the best possible person they can be. A facility like this would help nurture and ensure that transformation. Thank you for taking the time to read this and have a great day.

Thank you,

Bobbie Jo K. Richmond



Agents of Insurance

Phone: (605) 348-7788

Fax: (605) 348-8740

From: Sara Hill [mailto:muilenburg_s@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 1:24 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an employee of Children's Therapy Services, but more importantly a parent of 3 children who lives in Rapid Valley. As a mother of a 3 year old, I can tell you that childcare options near Rapid Valley are very limited....and professional childcare even more so. I understand concerns of the area Little Owls Daycare would be in....but with a fenced area, safe playground, and trained staff I would love to have this as a childcare option! As a parent, I feel the need to drive to Box Elder in order to find a suitable daycare. My daughter does not have a yard to play in, outside toys to play on, and in fact there is not even a lawn where she currently goes! It seems as though the cities concerns are those in which my current provider does not even provide....and please keep in mind that this is the BEST I could find! Please allow Little Owls Daycare to open in their Cambell Stree location, it will give parents in our neighborhood and community a safer and more qualified option for our children!

Sara Hill

(605)877-6112

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

From: Denise Webster [<mailto:Denise@KTLLP.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 2:06 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: support

Mr. Laroco,

I have heard about a possible daycare operation that Children's Therapy Center is considering. I fully support this need for the children and their families.

Thank you!

Denise M. Webster, CPA, PFS

Managing Partner

Ketel Thorstenson, LLP

Direct: (605) 716-8686

Office: (605) 342-5630

Fax: (605) 342-2172

e-mail: denise@ktllp.com



From: Andrea Mcdermet [<mailto:Andrea.Mcdermet@fib.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 2:07 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Children's Therapy Services and Little Owls Daycare

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you as a concerned therapy worker in this state. There is a huge need for care for special needs children in Rapid City, SD. Parents who have special needs children often have to give up their careers in order to take care of their special needs children as there is no daycare/preschool program that will take them. This is horrible, just because a family has a special needs child in their family should not limit them in life! This little owls daycare would benefit the community and the outlook of families with children that need a little more assistance than other children. There are so many families in need of this service it would be a shame for the city to not support this daycare.

Andrea McDermet

From: Leah Richter [<mailto:Leah.Richter@vantagepnt.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 2:10 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Good afternoon. I believe Children's Therapy Services' proposal for an all-inclusive daycare and preschool for children of all needs will greatly benefit Rapid City and the surrounding communities and am writing to express my full support.

This facility would provide a needed option for child care services for the special needs children of our area, where they can have their needs met and where early intervention can take place. As a resident of Rapid City, I have seen that there are currently few to no options for parents in need of all day services for their special needs children, and Children's Therapy Services' proposed preschool and daycare would alleviate this issue. We all know parents who are in need of this service, even if we are not directly affected or in need of these services.

Dan and Justin Casey and their staff are dedicated to providing these services to children in the Rapid City area, as can be substantiated by their recent purchase of the Campbell Street Mall. The expansion of adding daycare and preschool services to their current clinic therapy services is a great thing for Rapid City and I urge the City to also support Children's Therapy Services' proposed endeavor.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Leah Richter

Senior Telecommunications Analyst

Direct: 605.995.1793

Fax: 605.995.1778

Leah.Richter@Vantagepnt.com



From: Ashley Wermers [<mailto:amwermers@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 2:19 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Children's Therapy Services

To whom this may concern,

Children's Therapy Services has done many things to help out the community. They have created programs during the summer to have kids come and join in a sensory camp, they participated in the kid's fair at the Civic Center, and many more I am not aware of. They create a loving and comfortable environment for the children, which helps the children adjust to the new environment quickly. I support their services and encourage them to move forward with their Little Owls Daycare and Preschool program.

I would love to see them start a daycare and preschool for special needs children because there is nothing like that in Rapid City, that I know of. This would be a great opportunity for these children because they would get the help they need to move forward in their lives. This program would work specifically with these individuals helping them move forward in their learning to be able to have a healthy transition into higher education. Having a program where the children are all on the same page will encourage learning and being active with the other children. This program will give parents an opportunity to have their children get the help and support they need. Many daycare systems and preschools turn away special needs children because they may be too much work with all the other children they have. Having a place that work specifically with special needs children creates a new environment that will show progress in young individuals.

It is hard to find somewhere to take your children for daycare/preschool, but I support Children's Therapy and Little Owls Daycare and Preschool because I believe that this will help our community and the future of the children in Rapid City!



Children's Therapy Services
1774 Centre St. Suite 1
Rapid City, SD 57703
Phone: (605) 716-2634
Fax: (605) 716-2639

<http://www.childrenstherapyservicesd.com>

December 26, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. I am a physical therapist at Children's Therapy Services and I have just recently moved to Rapid City. During this transition, I was looking for a preschool to enroll my daughter in. I found that the timing of our move resulted in a lot of difficulty to find a location for her to attend school. I was calling many facilities and at times never even got calls back. I was running into road block after road block for many places had waitlists or were at maximum capacity for the year. So even with online searches, I had very few options to choose from. We did find a location and she has fit in well there, however, I feel there is a need in town for more preschool and daycare options.

One factor that I was very blessed with, is that my daughter requires no extra help due to special needs. As a pediatric physical therapist for the past 8.5 years, I know how challenging it can be to find services for your child. I have had numerous discussions with parents over the years who are looking for the "right fit" for their child and cannot find it. Maybe due to physical, cognitive or behavioral limitations their child cannot "qualify" or more importantly "cannot remain in" preschool for the facility is not staffed correctly. Therefore, these kids who often needs elements of structure, the need for early learning and some integration in the community, end up being left out.

It is a part of our mission at Children's Therapy Services to treat kids and be accessible to kids with all abilities. We offer a safe place to work through difficulties with the families and to try our best to serve any child of any level. The Little Owls Daycare and Preschool will be an easy extension of the mission of the clinic. We have experts on staff already to help guide and direct care at the preschool (if needed) and to be a resource to work with those families to give a much-needed service to the community.

I am therefore writing to ask you to support the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. It can truly fill a needed gap in the community.

Sincerely,

Trena Hardy, PT, DPT
7375 Castlewood Drive
Summerset, SD 57718

From: Jared Batman [<mailto:jbatman@newscenter1.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 2:42 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

Hello Robert,

My name is Jared Batman and I am writing this email in regards of my support for Little Owls Daycare. I believe that this is a great benefit to the people in our community. Currently there is very few options for parents to take special needs children to day care. I myself know a few different parents that struggle with this exact situation because they have no place for all day daycare for their special needs children. I know for a fact that Justin Casey and her staff will maintain a very High Quality Standard and many families will be very thankful to have Little Owls Daycare as an option.

Thank you for your time and have a great day!

Jared Batman

Senior Sales and Marketing Consultant

KNBN NewsCenter1

jbatman@newscenter1.com

Office: 605-355-0024 ext. 19

From: Midwest Evaluation Service [<mailto:midwestevaluationservices@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 1:28 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls day care

My name is Brian Larson. I am a school psychologist and business owner that serves the Black Hills area. I have observed the work of Childrens Therapy Services for the last eight years. The services they provide are exceptional in every way. Dan and his wife work to provide high quality services to children at an affordable rate. As a school psychologist I work with high needs children. You should be aware that early intervention is the key to making the most growth. I support Children's Therapy Services and Little Owls Daycare and Preschool as an option for child care services for Special needs kids in this area. It is my understanding that there are currently few to zero options for parents in need of all day care services for their special needs children in Rapid City. If you have questions please contact me directly at 970-589-6475.

Brian Larson

School Psychologist NCSP

Have a great day!

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Sent from my iPhone

From: Samantha Ackerman [<mailto:samantha.ackerman@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 7:29 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Regarding Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Samantha Meyer

2668 Shad Street

Rapid City, SD 57703

Dear Mr. Laroco,

I am writing in support of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool's request to operate a special education day care in conjunction with Childrens Therapy Services' core business.

I believe that this will have a positive impact on both their business as well as Rapid City as a whole. I have heard about the vision that Mr. and Mrs. Casey have for their businesses here in Rapid City and would love to see them succeed. I believe it would be very beneficial to have a daycare and preschool that takes children of all needs AND to have the clinic in such close proximity. The help that those children could get would be incredible and is so important. The Casey's are great people who truly care about the children and will do whatever it takes to help them succeed.

I have worked for the school district as a preschool paraprofessional. They have a program for preschoolers with special needs, but they are only there for less than 3 hours a day and only a couple days a week. I don't believe there are many other options for children with special needs when it comes to daycares. I think everyone would benefit from a child care program that includes children with special needs. I have seen children with disabilities benefit from being with other children and typically developing children benefit from having a classmate with a special need because they learn respect for a child whose abilities are different from theirs, as well as how to respond appropriately and offer to help the child.

Thank you for your consideration.

Samantha Meyer

From: Margaret Hall [<mailto:mhall@childrenstherapyservicesd.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 7:39 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Regarding Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email on behalf of Children's Therapy Services and their desire to open a daycare that is accessible to special needs children. A facility like this would be a great benefit to this community, especially to the parents of kids with special needs. Having a facility like that right next to a therapy clinic would also lessen the burden on the parents having to get their children to appointments for services needed. It would also have the added benefit of daycare and preschool employees trained and comfortable in working with kids with special needs as well as those Kids with typical development. It also makes a great avenue for the therapists working with the kids to include the daycare staff in how to facilitate growth and development for each child. This reinforcement and repetition would increase the benefit the kids would get out of therapy. This close proximity with the therapists and daycare providers make for an easy channel of communication if either would have a question or if parents had a question. Please consider making this facility a reality for this community.

Margaret Bentley, PT, DPT
Children's Therapy Services

From: Wendy Mullins [<mailto:cwmullins@icloud.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 11:00 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Re: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Hi Robert,

I understand that Justin and Dan Casey of Children's Therapy Services will go before the city council on January 5th to hear the city's decision regarding Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. Having moved here a couple of years ago from Colorado Springs, I am happy to be part of a friendly, inviting community that bands together to make good things happen. The Caseys' vision for a daycare/preschool that supports children with special needs is needed, not only in this community, but in all communities. When I worked in Early Intervention years ago, I was able to see firsthand the undeniable impact that was made on neurodevelopment with children who received early education that was tailored to their special needs. I also was able to see the impact that this had on parents who would tearfully advocate for their child to be given "what is best for him/her." Rapid City is blessed to have some excellent educational standards and I am particularly impressed with the educational teams that go the extra mile providing special supports for students who otherwise have a hard time making it through a normal class day. It makes sense to me for more resources to be plugged into early education/preschool during the most transformational period of neurodevelopment so that children are helped sooner. Earlier programming for most students with special needs has more of a longterm impact. I believe that Little Owls Daycare/Preschool could make such a difference for children in this area who deserve more specialized early education. Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mullins, PhD

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

LMB Therapy (live. move. be.)

From: rjulia2@rap.midco.net [<mailto:rjulia2@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 11:29 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a parent I know the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have been able to attend preschool before starting kindergarten. My son attended a special needs preschool when he was small and it greatly helped him succeed through his school years. Rapid City is lacking in preschool/daycare options and to add another one to the town would greatly improve those options. Special needs children need socialization, just like any other child.

I ask that you support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. This service is needed in our community.

Sincerely,

Julie Ross

From: Stephanie Stee [<mailto:sstee@childrenstherapyservicesd.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 11:31 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Preschool and Daycare. As an occupational therapy practitioner, I know the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on track with their learning early can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence, and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for preschool in the Rapid City Community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will include trained staff and have therapist involvement which will make it safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. This is an important need, for many local preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to potential limitations in space, staff resources and training. These children can be left out of traditional preschools due to their special needs and families are therefore left fewer options and without preferred services.

I ask that you support Little Owl's Preschool and Daycare. They can provide a different option and a needed service to the community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stee COTA/L

From: Brittany Kruse [<mailto:bkruse81393@outlook.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 12:03 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Preschool and Daycare

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Preschool and Daycare. As a parent i know the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended preschool as a foundation to their learning. I believe that this addition to our community will be great. Not only because of the preschool and daycare, but for the simple fact of children interacting with each other, and also have a place in the community to take special needs kids so that they can have the learning and interacting experiences also. It will be a great addition to our community!

From: K Neuhardt [<mailto:jkneuhardt1@live.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 2:01 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: support Children's Therapy Services, Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

12/28/16

Kristin Neuhardt

Rapid City SD 57702

To who it may concern,

Have you ever done an internet search on "Rapid City special education"? A result of 13 organizations are listed. What about "Rapid City special education daycare"? A result of 1 organization is available in Rapid City. What if the search was for "Rapid City disability child care services"? The result is 13 centers/resources are available in the area "note, less than a five were of child care centers". The search engines are endless for the topic of special needs, disability child care services. I bring this up for conversation because of the organizations that came back as a result of my search; only a few provide myself little helped as a parent/provider/community member. One organization "not located in Rapid city", but is available in South Dakota, provides the services of childcare, education, PT/OT, and speech services. So my question is "Why do we not have a program like this in Rapid City"? If these services are available in Rapid City they are not doing a very good job in the marketing of their services to let the community know they are available.

I am contacting you today to let you know I support Children's Therapy Services, along with Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. I feel that this would be a great resource for child care services in our community. Our community has a need and their mission and vision is simple and can meet that need:

Children's Therapy Services Vision is to provide children with lifelong skills. Through the activation of therapeutic techniques, children can become successful socially, emotionally, physically and developmentally allowing them the skills required for play, school and beyond. We will strive to give each child the opportunity to be successful individuals with promising futures.

Children's Therapy Services believes that children should be treasured and valued. We strive to provide quality therapy designed to serve each child's potential. We embrace and encourage family, caregiver and school participation in the therapy process. It is our goal to empower children to positively engage, perform and participate in life and the world around them.

It has been said that less than 30% of children with a disability are detected before entering school. So why would our community want to turn away an organization like Little Owls Daycare and Preschool for establishing services of childcare, education, PT/OT, and speech services “one stop service, that partners with other organizations” in our community, for the success of our children’s future.

Our community needs more facilities that meet the needs of children with special needs!

Only 25 state registered centers are listed on the DSS website; and only 4 of those centers listed have current opening as of 12/28/16. Out of those 4 centers only 2 have updated their organizations info in the last year. So as a result there are not very many options for families to choose from to meet their child care needs.

So what and where do you tell a parent of a child with special needs to go for services?

If you look at the picture as a whole of what child care services are available you will see below. But of those providers who has openings? I myself a parent of 4 children found it very difficult to find services in the Rapid City area that would meet my family’s needs. Out of the list below how many of the child care programs provide services to children with special needs? That is why I think Little Owls Daycare and Preschool would be an amazing addition to the child care programs list.

SFY16 Number of regulated child care programs:

1. Registered Family Child Care Homes (maximum of 12 children) 684
2. Licensed Group Family Daycare Homes (13 - 20 children) 58
3. Licensed Day Care Centers (21 or more children) 200
4. Licensed Before and After School Program (school age children) 154

Source: <http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/licensing/childcaredata.aspx>

[Child Care Data - dss.sd.gov](http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/licensing/childcaredata.aspx)

dss.sd.gov

Child Care Data. This resource provides data related to services provided by the Department of Social Services, Division of Child Care Services (CCS).

I feel very strong about Little Owls Daycare and Preschool providing the foundation for school readiness! I also feel that they would meet the needs of seamless services for children with special needs. One area that I think our community is lacking. One of South Dakota’s goals is to promote opportunities for increased child care options for the unique needs of children with special needs. So with the addition to Little Owls Daycare and Preschool to our community that goal would be met.

As for the location of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool, I could not think of a better spot. They have more than enough room to meet all of the state's requirements and ratios. To include the playground State Law: **67:42:10:19. Physical standards for facility only requires** 50 square feet of play space outdoors per child. Little Owls Daycare and Preschool can provide that adequate space; with a few modifications of the location all safety concerns will be met. There are other facilities in town that have meet the same challenges and opportunities that Little Owls Daycare and Preschool are ready to accept and achieve.

Rapid City population of around 80,000 based off the 2000 census and four cities/town within city limits of Pennington County/Rapid City. That is a lot of people to provide services to and try to meet their family's needs. Little Owls Daycare and Preschool can assist with meeting those needs for our community! I strongly believe this business will only help or community to grow.

I ask that you join in the support of Children's Therapy Services and Little Owls Daycare and Preschool as an option for child care services in our community. I support the mission and vision because it is what I want for my children. I also want my children and the children of this community to be empower, positively engage, perform and participate in life and the world around them.

Thank you for your time!

~Kristin Neuhardt

From: Aaron J. Miller [<mailto:aaronmiller@bhosc.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 5:47 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Childrens Therapy Services and Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Dear Mr. Laroco,

I writing to you about the above facility proposed as an option for child care services. It is my understanding that there are no options for parents in need of all day services for their special needs children. This note is serve as support for Dan and Justin Casey as highly skilled and compassionate people and this facility. I have worked with them both on a professional level providing physical and occupational services for pediatric caseloads. They demonstrate a high level of professionalism and I believe would provide a high level of care in this facility.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

AJ Miller

From: Robert Schlesselman [<mailto:rschlesselman@pandora.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 1:23 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Children's Therapy Services

Mr. Laroco,

My name is Robert Schlesselman and I am a sales rep for Hits 102.7 and KXMZ-FM, beyond that I am also a parent of 2 children 3 and 10. I am writing you on behalf of Children's Therapy Services in hopes that I can help and letting you know my support for the early intervention, sensory development, parent and community education that Little Owls Daycare and Preschool can bring to this community. We are always in need of child care in this area and good care is hard to find. As a parent I know this struggle all too well. I also have a friend who has a child that is in need of special care while they are both at work and I know that this type of child care that CTS and Little Owls Daycare will provide is something that can be a big support left for my friends. This program would be a huge benefit not only to those looking for care that is from an already thriving child care system, but also to those in need of child care in those of special needs. I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Thank you,

Robert Schlesselman | Account Executive | KXMZ- FM Hits 102.7/Pandora 822 Main Street Rapid City, SD 57701 w 605.737.4800 | m 605.877.6680 | rschlesselman@pandora.com

From: joanielittrel@gmail.com [<mailto:joanielittrel@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 1:32 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Day Care and Preschool

I am writing to support Dan and Justin Casey in their efforts to open and operate Little Owls Day Care and Preschool. The community is in dire need of such a facility, and the Caseys are providing a rich opportunity for parents and children who will benefit from the Casey's services. Please do whatever it takes to support Dan and Justin in their endeavors. Thank you. Joanie Littrel

Sent from my iPhone

From: Diane Fish [<mailto:diane.fish@comcast.net>]

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 1:40 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl Preschool

December 27, 2016

Re: Support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to advocate for and encourage support to Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool.

While I was employed by the Division of Specialized Care for Children for 14 years, I worked

with several surrounding states through the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block

Grant Program. In my Care Coordination role, I frequently interfaced with this Grant Program. My experiences began at the request of a parent with a child with specialized health care and education

needs, to identify optimum resources required due to family relocation to a new state. For that I would search for the Title V program corresponding to the state to which the family was moving.

Recently I had the experience of facilitating for a family with the Rapid City, S.D. local resources.

Enrollment in preschool was the goal. It seemed from my search and feedback that there appears to be growing and continuous need for additional care options for special care services, particularly at the preschool entry level. Lack of anticipated resources can be devastating to these families caught in transition of a move from state to state.

I wish to submit my opinion that whatever might be done to increase access to quality programs and well trained care for the special needs population in Rapid City should be encouraged, studied, acted on and program needs assessed regularly.

Therefore I lend my support and encourage the development of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Fish, R.N., B.S.N.

Care Coordinator

From: Bonnie Kompf [<mailto:bonnie.kompf@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 8:27 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Hello,

My name is Bonnie Kompf. I am writing to you to express my interest in Rapid City offering a special needs preschool and daycare. I am a Physical Therapist in the Rapid City area and witness the challenges families with special needs children encounter. A company offering to provide all day childcare/preschool is an excellent proposition in this area. This program could be very beneficial for those families who need to provide for their family but also need extra care for their children. Integrated classroom learning is also an important aspect of development for typical needs children as well as special needs children. Thank you for your time and have a great New Year!

Bonnie Kompf

From: Michele Slott [<mailto:mrvys1998@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, December 30, 2016 5:49 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Dear Robert,

I would like to note my support for Justin and Dan Casey in their efforts to build this Daycare, Preschool and Children's Therapy Services Clinic on Campbell Street.

The Casey's were neighbors of mine for several years and have great compassion for others, especially children, very especially children living in poverty with special needs. They are smart, driven and very generous people. They are not ones to coddle, either. They have high expectations of others to get on board and work to make their own lives better.

I don't have all of the information on this project of course, nor do I know everything about the Caseys. And yet I do believe they will work incredibly hard to help make the lives of those children better and thereby be a solid example to others in the region of how we can transform our community to be an even better place to live, work and play for future generations.

Thank you for your time and all you do for our city.

Sincerely,

- Michele Vallery Slott

4710 Capitol St

Rapid City, SD 57702

From: Karen Masee [<mailto:kmassee@clc.tie.net>]

Sent: Friday, December 30, 2016 9:26 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl Daycare

Mr. Laroco,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a coordinator for the Family Support Program, I see the drastic need for an appropriate daycare setting for children with special needs. Many of the parents on my program can not work because of the lack of daycare for their children.

I ask that you support Little Owl's Daycare so our community has more options for childcare need.

Sincerely,

Karen Masee

Family Support Coordinator for Pennington Co Family Support

730 E. Watertown St.

Rapid City, SD 57701

605.721.7442

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a preschool teacher, parent, and member of the community" I understand the value of early childhood education and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I have been in the early childhood profession for over 25 years here in Rapid City. I have seen specially needs children fall through the gap in child care and early childhood education. This has been a need here in Rapid City for over quarter of a century it is time we filled this need, for the families of our community.

I ask that you would help in supporting Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They can provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much-needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Laura Lyson

From: Heather Lammers Bogard [<mailto:hbogard@costelloporter.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 8:16 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl Daycare

Mr. Laroco:

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a parent and member of the community, I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Heather Lammers Bogard

From: freddisue@yahoo.com [<mailto:freddisue@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 9:41 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Dear Mr. Laroco,

I am writing this letter in support of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. As a pediatric speech/language pathologist working with the birth to three and preschool population, I have seen firsthand the need for this type of program. There is a significant lack of daycares in our area that are equipped to provide proper care to children with disabilities. I know of one mother who has to take her daughter with cerebral palsy to work with her because of a lack of care. This creates stress for the mother because she is unable to complete her work in a timely fashion, and it is stressful for the little girl, because she can feel the tension from her mother. A safe daycare, equipped to provide appropriate care for her would solve these problems.

Our area would also benefit from a new preschool option. My son was lucky enough to attend a preschool program such as this in another town. He attended as a "peer model." The skills he learned in early education have helped him succeed and advance throughout school. I would love for my daughter to have the same opportunity. Including children in preschool classes that involve students with disabilities helps them learn compassion and develop an understanding of different needs and abilities. It also provides early intervention success to children with disabilities. Early intervention is vital to later school success.

I am excited to hear that Dan and Justin Casey are planning to incorporate a preschool/daycare program into their Children's Therapy Services. They will provide a necessary learning option that I will recommend to many of my clients' parents. I hope the city will support their endeavor.

Sincerely,

Cristy Davis, M.S., CCC-SLP

Small Talk Speech Therapy, Inc.

Sent from my iPad

From: Erin Lehmann [<mailto:erinlehmann@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 5:24 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

Hello Robert,

My name is Erin Lehmann and I have known Justin Casey for 7 years. Justin and her husband are trying to open a daycare and preschool for all children and will accept children with special needs. Justin has always worked to help the disadvantaged children of Rapid City. She has sponsored children so they can play football or basketball. As a principal of an elementary school, she has contacted me to see how she can help meet the needs of children before they enter the school system. By opening this daycare, this would be one way she could meet the needs of many Rapid City children - especially children who have disabilities. As an educator we know early prevention is the key to meeting and developing student needs and this is exactly what Justin and Dan are trying to do.

This daycare and preschool would be an asset to Rapid City and you will have two people who truly care about our youth running it. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erin Lehmann

605.786.4771

From: Krista Bertelson [<mailto:bertelson99@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 5:34 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: in support of Little Owl's Daycare/Preschool

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and preschool. As a parent and educator in the community, I see the need and support the innovative programming that will be offered at this facility. It is my understanding that this facility will provide staff such as occupational therapists, speech therapists and physical therapists, in addition to the highly trained daycare staff. This set up proves to be a cutting edge, highly integrated model that will be a huge benefit in this community. There is an urgent need for young children to have the opportunity to have access programs such as this in this sensitive period of their development. I believe that this facility has the ability and the drive to make the changes and progression that is needed for children in the area. I would ask you to support the development of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool so that this community continues to be served in the best possible way!

Thank you,

Krista Bertelson

From: boechler tara [mailto:tara_boechler@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 6:04 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. As a mother of a child with a disability and a teacher of struggling students, I understand the imperativeness of early learning in a high quality learning environment. South Dakota has the highest working mothers in the nation with children in daycare so they need safe options that they can trust to provide for their children, especially those with special needs. This transition allows for all children to be confident and successful in elementary school and beyond. This program will make a positive difference for families, making Rapid City a great destination to raise a family! Therefore, I am in full support of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool.

Thanking You In Advance,

Tara Boechler

From: Deanna Woockman [<mailto:dwoockman@icloud.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 6:08 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a School Psychologist I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Deanna Woockman, NCSP

From: amiotte@gwtc.net [<mailto:amiotte@gwtc.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 6:38 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

January 2, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a National Board Certified Early Childhood Through Young Adult Exceptional Needs Specialist I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech

therapists) involvement that will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shannon Amiotte

National Board Certified Teacher

Attached: Official Letter of Support

From: cheyenne nite [<mailto:lunarchild55@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 7:50 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Daycare

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a "therapist, teacher, parent, healthcare professional, member of the community?" I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they... have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool. I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Lisa Quellar

From: Rob Preble [<mailto:bluenotes88@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 8:55 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As parents, we understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. We are therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. There is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

We ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Nicole & Rob Preble

From: Crystal Lien [<mailto:crystalball1@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 12:11 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a member of the community I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. When children start out on the right track with their early learning they will have improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These are an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training.

Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Crystal Lien

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jennifer Hasvold [<mailto:hasvold@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 12:22 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To whom it may concern,

I am writing support of Little Owl's daycare and preschool. As a **pediatrician and parent** I understand the unique challenges that children with special needs face on a daily basis. *These children who are most in need of encouragement, education, support and attention are frequently not accommodated in a typical daycare or preschool setting.* They often have difficulty advocating for themselves whether to to impaired locomotion or gross motor skills, or problems with speech delay, and their needs are frequently overlooked as care providers are saddled with the already challenging task of caring for and educating young children.

Research overwhelmingly shows that early childhood education is a worthwhile investment for community use. *Early childhood is crucial period of intervention during which the plasticity of the brain allows for gains and progress that children may not be able to make later in life, **this is particularly true for children with special needs.***

I have had a very positive experience with Black Hills pediatric therapy and have been impressed by the positive impact they have had on the lives of my patients. I very much looks forward to seeing the space and program they create for these children who so direly need this opportunity.

My son Samuel was born this year with anoxic brain injury and has global developmental delay. He has not been in a conventional daycare setting because we have not been able to find a program with the resources to provide Samuel with the care and attention he needs. We currently rely on nannies who we personally train in his occupational and physical therapy needs to care for Samuel while I am working. As you can imagine, this is a luxury many families cannot afford. Parents are frequently forced to quit their jobs to provide appropriate care for children with special needs. Not only does this exacerbate the financial strain on families that are often already struggling in the face of medical expenses, it negatively impacts the community and economy by taking ready and willing people out of the work force.

*As a health care provider, as a parent and as a community member strongly urge you to support their effort. **We must meet this need for the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community.***

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hasvold, M.D.

Founders Park Clinic

--

Jennifer Hasvold Phillips

Rapid City, SD

(605) 484-8905

From: Elizabeth Lemcke [<mailto:lemcke32@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 12:47 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to write to encourage you to support the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. Dan and Justin Casey have such a heart for children and I feel this would be such a benefit to the community. As a mother I know there can never be enough quality childcare and early childhood education and knowing people involved with children on special needs, this is an amazing opportunity for parents to have a place their children are accepted and loved and well taken care of.

I feel this is a much needed service to our community and I support the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool!

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Lemcke

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Madison Guist, and I am writing in regards to support for a preschool with the means to care for both typical and children with special needs is so important for our Rapid City community. I am a pediatric occupational therapist, thus I spend most of my week around children who have various types of special needs. Honestly most of the children that I currently see, would either not need as much time with me or not need me at all if they had received the appropriate intervention services at a younger age. Early intervention is of the utmost important with this population because these children are growing, learning, and adapting at such a fast rate! The earlier the needs in these children are caught and addressed the better it is for the child, the family, the child's future academic teacher, and the community as a whole. I am not from this area, so I have an outside looking in perspective of Rapid City. Because of this, I have noticed an extreme gap in this area for this community. There are many children who are not getting the services they need and deserve just because there is a lack of knowing what to look for by their caregivers. This is why a preschool that is equipped to notice these things is so important for this community! The Little Owls Daycare and Preschool will be equipped to care for this population and address all of these children's needs at the earliest age possible. With this we will see great improvement in this populations skills. This will create a less amount of resources needed for these kids in the future and a better success rate for them in their school, home, and community environments. Which is what we should strive for for ALL children because it's what they deserve.

Thank You for your time,

Madison Guist, OTR/L

madisonguist@gmail.com

From: dan casey [<mailto:dancasey2@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 3:38 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Preschool Support Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. I am a pediatric occupational therapist who has worked in the Rapid City community and the surrounding areas for the last 12 years. I work with children of all ages, disabilities, and cultures. From my own experience, I strongly feel Rapid City is lacking in PROFESSIONAL PRESCHOOLS run by college educated and experienced preschool and daycare providers and therapists. Many of the preschools and daycares in the community do not have the experience, facility, equipment, or expertise in working with children with special needs and parents are NOT comfortable with leaving their children in somebodys care that has no idea how to work with children with special needs or any other basic developmental disabilities. I have heard this from NUMEROUS parents in the area. Opening Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool can fix this problem because their staff specializes in working with all children and especially children with special needs. All their pediatric speech, occupational, and physical therapists work for Children's Therapy Services based out of Rapid City. They are the best around at servicing children's developmental needs and education. With permission from the city to open Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool at it's requested location will greatly help the community of Rapid City fill the void of not having a preschool and daycare that services children with special needs and other developmental issues.

I work with therapists from Children's Therapy Services based out of Rapid City. They are THE BIGGEST pediatric child care provider in the area. Even bigger and better then Lifescape which many people are enthusiastically learning. When I was informed that Children's Therapy Services is looking at opening Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool in Rapid City that will be helped run by their pediatric physical, occupational, and speech therapists, I was overwhelmed with joy as I got to pass on this good news to many parents. MOST ALL of these parents stated that they will use these services immediately upon opening and enroll their children. There is no place in Rapid City that is more qualified and capable of working with children with or without disabilities then Children's Therapy Services. They have some of the most experienced therapists and teachers in the area working for them and many of their therapists and teachers have been awarded various awards in the past for their great services they perform. Their staff CONTINUALLY attends workshops, seminars, and other educational classes to maintain their experience and professionalism in the field.

The location that Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool is requesting is a SUPER area for this type of population that would be served at Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. It is VERY VERY convenient for parents to be able to drop off and pick up their children. It is in a great location. The area is traveled by MANY parents every morning so they don't have to go out of their way to drop their child off. PLUS, it would be located right next to THE BEST pediatric therapy clinic in the community! This alone makes this location extremely beneficial to the children that would attend this preschool. There are other preschools in town in light industrial areas but none more conveniently located then hopefully this new location that Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool is requesting. Rapid City itself will benefit from this new preschool and daycare and the community of Rapid City can add to it's resume that it now has a childcare provider and preschool capable and experienced with working with children with special needs if it elects the go ahead to build the facility.

As a pediatric therapist and parent, I am begging the city to please grant permission for the opening of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool! It will be a great way to eliminate waiting list's and denials for children at other preschools, give children with special needs the education and care they need, and give the families the comfort and assurance of knowing their children are being well cared for and educated by true pediatric professionals who dedicate their lives to making all children in the community more well rounded. Thank you for your time in this matter. Rapid City no longer needs to have preschools deny children with special needs an education. Please let Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool open in it's requested and conveniently located location. The children and their families in the community will be forever grateful!

Sincerely,

Dan Casey, OTR/L

(605) 877-2550

dancasey2@hotmail.com

From: btedford@regionalhealth.org [<mailto:btedford@regionalhealth.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As speech therapist I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Brooke Tedford MS, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist

Rapid City Regional Hospital

2908 5th Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

605-719-1408

btedford@regionalhealth.com

From: Janel McWilliams [mailto:janel_mcwilliams@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello there I am writing to support The Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. I have worked in childcare for over 10 years and see the benefits children get when they get help at a very young age. Getting help for kids is a process and takes time. Little Owls Daycare and Preschool will have services right next door to help these children excel and grow. They can offer speech, occupational, and behavioral support for these kids. It would be very beneficial to our community to offer a place for children with needs to go somewhere that can assist them properly. Imagine being the mother or father of a child who has special needs and no where to take them for assistance, help, or even a break. They will have skilled professionals who will be able to work with these children and help them grow and succeed in life, plus have fun while learning. I urge you to support Little Owls Daycare and Preschool and allow them to open a wonderful place for children to go to feel safe and succeed.

Sincerely,

Janel McWilliams

January 3, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mother of three and grandmother of five, along with nieces, nephews, and other extended family members, I have witnessed the growth and development of many children from birth to teenagers to adulthood.

And as a former preschool teacher and preschool/daycare director, I have first-hand knowledge of the benefits early learning can provide to young children. We found improved communication skills, higher confidence levels, and improved learning skills are all achievable through an early learning environment, setting the ground work for a more successful school experience and life-long learning experiences.

However, nothing could prepare me for being the grandmother to a special needs grandson.

An emergency C-section brought Korbin into our lives in March 2013, ten weeks before his scheduled due date. Complications left Korbin diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. We look at life differently now. The familiar "milestones" of childhood growth and development are from a different time, a different life. Now we are overjoyed and so grateful for every little accomplishment, whatever it may be. There are no expectations, only hope, love, support, encouragement, and lots and lots of hard work.

Children's Therapy Services in Rapid City has been a God-send to us. My daughter has fought very hard to get Korbin the best therapy he can get. She wants him to have every chance to learn and grow and develop to the best of his abilities. The positive and aggressive attitude of the therapists he sees at CTS reflects the determined and uncompromising mindset she possesses. She will never give up.

Now, at almost 4 years old, Korbin and children like him would benefit greatly from a quality preschool environment with a highly trained staff and skilled therapy specialists on hand; Experts who can recognize and provide early intervention. A place where Korbin can be like any other preschooler...making friends, communicating with others, gaining confidence in himself and his "abilities," learning and growing, finding encouragement and support.

Little Owls Daycare and Preschool is not just another daycare and preschool idea. It is a vitally needed service to those of us with "special" circumstances. It is an answer to a prayer. It is a MUST!

All children are special and all children deserve to have the best learning experience in an environment that understands and supports the diverse challenges they may face.

I humbly ask that you would support the development of Little Owls Daycare and Preschool.

Thank you.

Loura M. LaFayette

3833 Ward Ave.

Spearfish, SD 57783

louralafay@gmail.com

From: AMY F [<mailto:amyf78@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 9:57 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Children's Therapy Services

Dear Robert,

I feel the facility that Justin and Dan Casey are trying to bring into Rapid City is a must. The options for families with children that have special needs is very limited. The daycare would not only be beneficial to the children, but also to the people taking care of them as they would know they would be in loving hands. How great would it be for the children to not only have a daycare but also to have therapy services right next door. The clinic and the preschool daycare can work in conjunction with one another. Rapid City needs to have an all-inclusive daycare preschool where children of all needs can have their needs met and where early intervention can take place. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I truly feel this would be a positive thing in so many different ways.

Sincerely,

Amy Lunders

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a healthcare professional and member of the community, I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a competent and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. This is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools, I am told, can not fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and/or training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little or no options in regards to daycare and preschool for their children.

I ask that you support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool plans for expansion. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a needed service to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad R. Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and "M".

Chad R. Meyer, DDS

From: Mike Rutherford [<mailto:amhandymanservice605@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 9:59 AM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: In Regards to Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. As a former Educator and a Mother of six children, this Daycare and Preschool is much needed for our community! Rapid City is one of the bigger cities in South Dakota, meaning that as a parent with a small child with special needs, you would go to a bigger city to find help for your child. Currently in Rapid City there really is not a Daycare or a Preschool that specializes in the care of special needs children. Children's Therapy Services have very qualified personal to get this program up and running!

Personally, I know of several families that have been looking for a program like this for their special needs children. Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool would be a very successful program and would be able to help out so many families that already live in our community, but they would also draw in more families to our community that have special needs children looking for a better, more qualified care program. As a parent, I would only want the best for my kids and I would assume you would too! So, the best for special needs children would be Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool!

Thank You for Your Time,

Anna Rutherford

From: amy ericks [<mailto:amyericks@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 12:58 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl Daycare and Preschool

Greetings,

My name is Amy Ericks, I am a dental professional in the Spearfish community. It has recently come to my attention that there is consideration to open Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. It is my understanding that this facility would be most beneficial for children with special needs, but open to all children. I would like to extend my support of this program being implemented. There are several families that are either friend or family that have children with special needs. Those families are seeking the best opportunities for their children and want to provide them with learning environments and experiences that will help them to reach their full potential. This type of educational facility would be a great benefit for the children, families, and staff. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and many thanks on behalf of the families that will utilize this great service for their children.

Kindly,

Amy Ericks

From: 10xranch@gmail.com [<mailto:10xranch@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 1:47 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

Dear Robert,

I'm writing to you in support of the Little Owls Daycare and Preschool that is needing approval by the City Council to open this much needed public service for families in the Spearfish area. I've been touched personally by children of our community with special needs and no where close by to go for their therapy . It's a heart wrenching decision to make when you have to work and need time off to travel to Rapid City to get the best care for your child. With this great team available in our town parents will have a great feeling of peace knowing that they can now drop their kids to receive the best care and therapy without having to take more time off work.

Please consider what a great addition to the community this would be for many, many Families.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Holly McAnlis

Sent from my iPhone

From: Brenda Beck [<mailto:bmeisch67@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 2:59 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Regarding Little Owl's Daycare

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. I am the parent of a 10 year old special needs child who like many other parents of special needs children in our community struggle to find daycare for our children because they may require one on one assistance as well as extra time and attention which most childcare centers are unable to provide due to limitation of staff, space, resources and training. These families are left with little to no options. It becomes increasingly difficult to find appropriate daycare as the child gets older. There is an extremely important need in this community to provide an appropriate program for these children, specifically ages 7 - 18 during the summer months and after school to attend, learn and grow.

I ask that you please support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the skills, ability and vision to provide a much needed service to many special needs children in our community.

Sincerely,

Brenda Beck

From: jmurray1@regionalhealth.org [mailto:jmurray1@regionalhealth.org]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 4:48 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. (Being proposed by Children's Therapy Services) As a healthcare professional and member of the community, I understand the value of early learning and how successful children can be in school when they have attended a daycare and preschool as a foundation to their learning. Studies have shown that getting children on the right track with their early learning can lay the ground work for improved skills in school, communication, confidence and interaction in their home and community environments. I am therefore in full support of having more options for children with special needs in a daycare/preschool setting in the Rapid City community.

Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool will provide trained staff and have skilled therapy staff (such as Physical, Occupational and Speech therapists) involvement which will create a highly skilled and safe place for children with special needs to attend and learn. These is an extremely important need as many local daycares and preschools cannot fully serve the needs of some of these children due to limitations of staff, space, resources and training. Unfortunately, this problem leaves out many children because of their special needs. These families are left with little to no options in regards to daycare and preschool.

I ask that you would support Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool. They have the ability to provide new and creative options for families of children with special needs. This is a much needed service to the community!

Sincerely,

Jan Murray RN, Pediatric Care Manager

From: Kassie McDuff [<mailto:kassica18@msn.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 8:59 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little Owls Daycare

To whom it may concern:

I am writing concerning Little Owls Daycare and Preschool. I wanted to let you know that I fully support a daycare system in the Rapid City area that has the capabilities of serving children with special needs. Rapid City doesn't have enough services for special needs children and this would be a great addition to the community. I am originally from Rapid City and have lived in Japan the last 4 years due to my husband being in the Air Force. From living here I have taken the opportunity to work at my children's school and have worked with kids with special needs and learned so much about the care that is needed for them to learn. I believe that children need to be exposed to other children before they start school and with not many options for childcare in Rapid City for special needs children this would benefit these kids tremendously. Little Owls Daycare will be beneficial since they will have therapists and knowledgeable employee's that will have nothing but the best interests of the kids at heart. I will be moving back to Rapid City in April of this year and hope to see this daycare open as soon as possible. Please help Little Owls Daycare to become a reality and not just a dream.

Sincerely

Kassandra McDuff

From: JOSH MUMM [<mailto:joshmumm@msn.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 9:53 PM

To: Laroco Robert <Robert.Laroco@rcgov.org>

Subject: Little owl daycare and preschool

Dear Mr. Laroco,

We have known Justin and Dan Casey for more than nine years. They are very caring and generous people with the concerns of others on their minds. Thank you for your consideration in allow Rapid City to experience the generosity, caring, community and family oriented nature of Justin and Dan Casey.

Sincerely,

Josh and Kyoko Mumm