

From: Jessica Reed <jessicareed81@gmail.com>
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To: Planning
Subject: Concord Children's Center

Categories: Purple Category

To the Concord Planning Board,

First, a big thank you all for your service and commitment to the town of Concord. I attended the virtual planning board meeting last night but had to step off before I was able to provide public comment on the new location for the Concord Children's Center. I understand you have received many emails on this matter so I will try to be brief and direct.

My name is Jessica Reed and I live at 83 Walnut Street with my husband and two boys, who both started at Concord Children's Center when they were infants. My youngest is still in the Ripley location in the 4-5s classroom. My husband and I both work full time. CCC has enabled us to access the care needed for our kids while maintaining our employment.

More specifically, my oldest son has epilepsy. He started having seizures while at CCC Emerson when he was 13 months old. His seizures are focal motor seizures that last 3-10 seconds and include jerking of his head, arm and body. He doesn't lose consciousness but can lose his balance. He was having dozens a day when they began. My husband and I are so grateful for the attention and care that the teachers provided our son while he was enduring these challenges. After trying 4 different medications without success over two years, we started Owen on the ketogenic diet at age 3 under the guidance of his MGH neurologist. This required strict monitoring of his food intake. CCC teachers and staff were incredibly supportive to us all along the way including helping keep a daily journal. Owen became seizure free with the ketogenic diet and was able to come off his meds!! After a few setbacks along the way, Owen has now been seizure-free for over 3+ years.

However, the frequent occurrence of seizures during his key developmental years created significant fine and gross motor delays. Owen needed OT and PT services to help bring him up to the level of his peers. My husband and I were unsure how we would make this all work while working full time and also caring for his younger brother Luke. Again, CCC stepped up! We were able to get Owen into the Concord Integrated preschool for a portion of the day where he could get his services but CCC helped coordinate by allowing Owen to enroll in the Ripley location for the other half of the day. They created a seamless solution for us and Owen! I am forever grateful for all they have done and continue to do for our family and many families across Concord, specifically those with both parents working full time.

Childcare has never been more challenging than this past year. Working families need a solution to help make it all work. CCC goes above and beyond. They care. They understand. They are not a corporate sterile childcare location with high employee turnover focused on making a buck. They are extended family members focused on creating wonderful little humans! Absent another option in town, it would be detrimental for CCC to lose half of their capacity and not provide a location on the east side of Concord. Any travel challenges or potential delays caused by the new location for short periods of the day are far far inferior to the benefit that CCC brings to the families of Concord. CCC has been considerate in their planning of the location and I have no doubt they will continue to be great neighbors and ensure a safe environment for all.

Thank you for your consideration. I fully support the approval of the new Concord Children's Center location without reservations.

Best,
Jessica Reed