

November 4th, 2020

Dear County Council Members,

Over the past five years, it has been our privilege to serve our staff, our families, and the Gaithersburg community. We are grateful for the experiences we have gained through these years, many that have taught us valuable lessons as a team. Our academy has continued to operate a sound program and service of value to the community prior to and through the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of all, we were here to provide a consistent and comforting experience for the children and members of all our front-line families through a difficult time. Our goal is to continue being of service to the community and provide a safe, nurturing, and meaningful learning environment even after the pandemic is behind us.

We are sending in this letter to you to bring to your awareness, the impact of any drastic changes to the current capacity and ratio mandates and how those would impact our school community.

With capacities remaining at the Phase 2 guidelines but ratio requirements moving to State mandates, we would impact the lives of five students who would need to be disenrolled to accommodate the additional staff member to meet the 1:10 ratio. In this scenario, we urge that you consider maintaining capacity and ratio limits as they currently are so that we can provide the continuity of care to these children and minimize the impact on their day-to-day lives. Our administration team would not know how to pick and choose which children would continue learning at school and which ones would need to be excluded to accommodate an additional staff member in each of our pre-school classrooms.

Alternatively, if mandates were to resume to MD State 1:10 staff to student ratios may we humbly ask you to consider increasing group sizes as well only so far that current capacities are not affected adversely affected and reduced?

In conclusion, our entire community, staff, and families alike, have come together with positivity and in unison to maintain socially conscious choices whether at school or outside of school, with the sole intention of creating a safe and nurturing environment for everyone. Here at Kiddie Academy our school motto states “Community Begins Here” It is what we strive to do and will continue to because each child matters. Thank you for your attention to this specific matter through a challenging process. We appreciate your contributions.

Sincerely,

The Kiddie Academy of Gaithersburg Leadership Team

Angela Cirincione , Alex Gompf, Rick Hancock, Nilay Shah and Namita Shah