

April 15, 2022
Montgomery County Councilmember
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Councilmembers:

My name is Jhenncy Centeno. I'm writing to advocate for increasing the number of available slots for 3 yrs olds and also have slots for parents that are in college and universities.

It is hard enough for parents to find a spot at a program for a child. I'm advocating for a couple of spots available for parents that are studying and trying to get a better education, to be able to get a better job and therefore offer better opportunities for their children. I have experienced personally the struggle of being a full time student, having a job and being a mother. I have seen many friends drop out of college because they became parents and not having the help to continue their studies. According to the (Maryland Child Care Resource Network) only 36.1% of adults over 25yrs got a bachelor's degree or higher in Montgomery county.

I was very lucky when I was working, my job was very flexible with me and I understood that I was trying to do better in life. Many people aren't lucky like I was and jobs aren't flexible. Many college parents choose to work to support their families and leave school behind. My child was in an infant and toddlers program through the doctor's office, and that helped me learn about the programs that were available around me, that helped low income parents/families, but slots were limited.

It's financially challenging already going to college/ university and having a child adds to it. Giving this help would tremendously help parents that want to continue studying to give a better future for their children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jhenncy Centeno