

# BANANAS

Child Care Information & Referral and Parent Support

April 13, 2010

Dear Peralta Board,

I am writing to you in support of College of Alameda Children's Center, located at 555 Atlantic Avenue in the city of Alameda. We have been informed that the center is at risk of closing. We urge you to do what you can to keep this from happening. The College of Alameda Children's Center has been in our referral files since 1980. For over 30 years they have been providing child care for preschool-age children with the ability to serve up to 98 children.

As it is throughout the Bay Area, care for low-income preschool-age children is extremely difficult to find in Alameda. Currently, there are 58 families with 62 preschool children waiting on the Centralized Eligibility List for a subsidized slot in the city of Alameda. As you see, closing Alameda College Children's Center would only make this number grow.

Many of the students attending College of Alameda currently using the Children's Center will face extreme hardship if the center were closed. The Peralta Board has made the suggestion that families use the Laney College Child Care facility. Transportation to the Laney College Child Care Center could be burdensome to many of the student families who may not have personal transportation, or the funds and time to take their children to and from the program on public transportation. Other low-income working families depend on the College of Alameda for their child care and would definitely lose out from securing a sliding-fee slot like the one they currently have. Furthermore, we understand that Laney College has had a waiting list for the past years, so the suggestion that parents would find care there is not a reality.

Closing the College of Alameda Children's Center would put the education and economic viability of the families at risk, and would continue to exacerbate the already frustrating experience of finding quality child care for the families of low-income preschool-age children in the city of Alameda.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We would welcome the chance to discuss this further with you.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Zamudio  
BANANASinc.