

From: [Celeste Crouch](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Reasons why millage should be restored
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 10:54:03 AM

Please send to the Board of Commissioners and with Public Disclosure.

Commissioners,

I am shocked by your proposal to cut the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) millage. Here is an anecdote which points out why the early childhood millage should be considered on a par with the senior millage or maybe even given higher priority.

A friend shared with me her experience with the ECDC program. As a first time parent, she felt intimidated by the huge expectations of doing a good job in her new role. She said that the experiences of attending the play groups and the parent meetups were wonderful confidence builders offering the insights she needed to be an effective Mom. The home visit discussions with the consultants were likewise enlightening. They shared what age appropriate developmental markers her son had reached and how those lagging skills could be addressed.

When her son developed a stammer, it was immediately flagged by the consultants and they counseled both parents on why professional therapy was critical. The speech therapy they pursued worked and their son's stutter went away.

All healthcare professionals agree that early childhood interventions are the BEST time to address physical, cognitive and emotional delays in children. Waiting until a child is older means that the problem has become more ingrained and is therefore more difficult to remediate.

My friend's son is thriving. She considers her experience with this program invaluable and is a steadfast proponent that the ECDC be continued with the full millage allocation as the honest election results dictated.

Thank you,
Celeste Crouch
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