

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 001

From: [Michael Fazio](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Cc: [Elena Virgadamo](#)
Subject: PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:29:22 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Dear Clerk,

I write in support of the application of Nature Lab, LLC for a preschool use permit amendment. I am a parent of a student at the school. Nature's Lab has been a wonderful environment for my child to learn and grow. Led by an exceptional team of educators, the staff provides a safe, structured, fun environment for the children. It's teaching philosophy, outdoor concept, bilingual instruction, and excellent faculty make it an standout school environment. The new school facility will enhance the learning environment for our daughter and other students at the school. We urge you to support Nature Lab's application.

Sincerely,

Michael Fazio

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 002

From: [Lauren Gardner](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Subject: For June 17 meeting: "PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment"
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:40:10 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Dear CPAC board,

I'm writing in response to your upcoming meeting where you will discuss the permit for Nature's Lab School in their new location (PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment).

My husband and I are both Olympic medalists (Gold medal in volleyball for him, Bronze medal in synchronized swimming for me) and as a result we have both traveled the world and thought extensively how we can work to expand the experiences of our children so they can grow and learn and benefit, like we have benefitted, from our experiences.

We were so happy to find Nature's Lab and our son (now 3 years old) was one of the first few students to join the school. The original interest was the bilingual education which was important to us as we both speak multiple languages. But our love for the school, and our appreciation for the experiences our children have while at school have grown so much over the last 2 years. (Now our 20 month old daughter attends as well).

Nature's Lab has provided resources on a discipline method called "Conscious discipline". It's been a tremendous support when we are working hard to create good little citizens who are consciousness, kind, gentle, fair, loving and joyful. Nature's Lab has provided resources and support for good sleep habits so that the kiddos are more even tempered, and better equipped to learn and connect with other students. My kids are exposed to a wide range of foods, and foods that come directly from the NatLab garden. They love to eat plums, blackberries and bell peppers and tomatoes right off the bushes/trees! They feel connected to food, and learn about how it nourishes their little bodies so they can grow "big and strong" as my son says. They learn to take care of animals and I've seen my children have such a capacity to be gentle and loving to the animals at school, and our animals at home. (Admittedly, I do have to remind them that our dog is not a horse.....but besides that lots of love and respect for our pets!)

One of my issues with other schools we visited was the lack of outdoor time for the kids. It was maybe 2-3 hours a day and always very structured. My kids love to be outdoors all day (even in the rain!). And I believe that teaches them that there are no "bad days"- only days that you make adjustments accordingly. This love of nature and being outside means that we can spend entire weekends going on hikes, or just playing in our backyard, and we don't need fancy toys or entertainment or TV or screens. My children are curious, independent and happy to make just about anything a game or an adventure. They like the structure of Nature's Lab in that the food and circle time and naps are something to expect, but that they will have freedom to

explore and learn on their own as well. I see how much joy this brings them.

The staff at NatLab is amazing. They are caring, and communicative. My kids call their teachers "my best friends". It's so important to me that my children know that they have a community of adults that love them, cherish them, nurture them, protect them and care for them. I know this buoys their self confidence, and their world view. The staff makes a concerted effort to inform me of challenges or accomplishments. And they are always open to feedback when I'm working to build on a skill for my kids.

An expanded Nature's Lab in their new location would be so wonderful, so that more children and families can experience the strong supportive community that Silvia Anderson has developed, fostered, and continues to improve. These first few years of our children's lives will leave an indelible mark on them, and set them up for a heart-healthy, successful future.

Thank you for making time to hear my thoughts.

With appreciation,
Lauren McFall Gardner

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 003

From: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
To: [Townsend, Stephanie](#); [Munoz, Alma](#)
Subject: FW: CPAC meeting June 17, Agenda Item 1, conditional use permit amendment
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:06:32 PM

Flo Evans
Clerk of the Board Office
P 916-874-8150 | C 916-599-0112

From: casey anderson <canderson665@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Clerk of the Board Public Email <BoardClerk@saccounty.net>
Subject: CPAC meeting June 17, Agenda Item 1, conditional use permit amendment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, do not click links/attachments.

To the Clerk of the CPAC Board:

The proposed amendment, as I understand it, is so that the location at issue can be utilized by Nature's Lab School. I am a mother of a two-year-old little girl who currently attends Nature's Lab School at its existing location, has been in full-time attendance since soon after the school opened, and I am also a Carmichael resident. I am writing in support of the modification and proposed new location for Nature's Lab School.

I feel very strongly about how much of an asset this school is not just to my family but to our community. I was lucky enough to get a spot at Nature's Lab School, and I am so grateful, not only because there were very limited options as to childcare at the time, but also because I was very picky about the type and quality of care for my daughter and did not want to send her just anywhere. Silvia and the other teachers at the school are the most excellent care I could ever have hoped for, far exceeding my expectations. They legitimately care about my daughter as if she was part of their family. Also, the outdoor education model aligns with my personal education values and has proven extremely enriching for my child. Nature's Lab School provides various options as to schedule, so it caters to a diverse group of parents, both those that work full time and those that only need childcare on a part-time basis.

The Nature's Lab teachers are not just care providers. They communicate with me about my child and her needs outside of school hours. They conduct workshops related to child development and parenting. They have regular parent-teacher conferences. They offer resources they believe may be useful to parents. They seek input from parents when making certain decisions about how they operate. They go above and beyond just watching my child during certain hours. They legitimately and deeply care about my child's development. And I think that is THE most important thing childcare needs to be offering to families.

Regarding outdoor education, I knew from the beginning when I started searching for a school that my child spending time outside was one of the most important things I was looking for. Plenty of schools I toured either spent the majority of their time inside or didn't even have a suitable or stimulating outdoor area. I feel like Giana is so much more intellectually and emotionally stimulated now, because she gets to spend so much time playing outdoors. And it is not just any outdoor space. In addition to climbing structures there is a sandbook, a stage with musical instruments, a mud kitchen, etc. There are also animals, which I believe research consistently shows are important for children to build empathy and other social/emotional skills. There is literally no other program in the entirety of the Sacramento area, that I am aware of, that offers these kinds of services or facilities to families.

In addition, I feel it is important that caregivers are educated and informed regarding child development and theory. Silvia of course has impressive accolades, but all of the teachers are very skilled. Childcare, I believe, is something that necessarily should go above and beyond just watching kids. Children of young age are in their most formative years, and I feel strongly caregivers should be consciously using methods that are designed to enrich children intellectually and emotionally, and Nature's Lab definitely excels in this regard.

I cannot say enough positive things about Nature's Lab School. When childcare is generally so difficult to secure, not to mention high quality childcare, to say Nature's Lab has been an asset to our family is an understatement. I think other Carmichael residents in the surrounding location will agree.

I strongly support the proposed modification and approval of the location for Nature's Lab School. If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me at this email address, or at 916-640-1533. Thank you.

Casey B.

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 004

From: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
To: [Townsend, Stephanie](#); [Munoz, Alma](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Childcare Facility Nature's Lab Playschool
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:20:55 PM

Flo Evans
Clerk of the Board Office
P 916-874-8150 | C 916-599-0112

From: Jane Grabowski <jane.grabowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:15 PM
To: Clerk of the Board Public Email <BoardClerk@saccounty.net>
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Childcare Facility Nature's Lab Playschool

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, do not click links/attachments.

Please note that this email is in reference to the following:

Item 1 for the June 17 meeting, "PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment"

My apologies for the oversight.

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 2:12 PM Jane Grabowski <jane.grabowski@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Sac County Community Planning Advisory Councils,

I am writing this letter in support of my toddler daughter's daycare facility, Nature's Lab Playschool, currently located in a home-based environment in Carmichael. Nature's Lab Playschool is looking to move to a larger facility nearby for a number of reasons, among those to accommodate the many families awaiting a high-quality childcare spot in a region with abysmal availability for child care in the first place. According to 2017 figures from childdata.org, only 28.2% of children whose parents are part of the labor force can be accommodated through existing childcare options; this statistic likely looks more grim in a post-Covid world after many (roughly 10%) of child care-providing facilities in California have closed. With these bleak figures, there's hardly any bandwidth left on conversations about quality.

Despite the terrible odds of securing child care in Sac County, our family was tremendously fortunate to find Nature's Lab Playschool in December 2018, shortly after owner Silvia Anderson opened her facility. Our daughter was close to a year old and we had cobbled together childcare by taking leaves from our respective professions, scaling back on our workload (and income) and flying relatives in from other states on a monthly basis as a stop-gap measure. Our daughter immediately took to the mostly outdoor, play-based environment at Nature's Lab and immediately bonded with the staff. While we did not have a choice of daycare facility per se (since no other options were available for children under 2 to us at the time), had we had a choice, we would have still chosen Nature's Lab Playschool. The things that set Nature's Lab apart from the other many many facilities that we toured (but had no availability for years to come) include:

- Children are encouraged to engage in self-directed play with natural, open-ended materials outside, rain or shine. This supports our own parenting philosophies and is in line with the evidence base for child development. Children with access to outdoor play-based activities are less likely to be obese, have

stronger immune systems, are less likely to contract communicable illnesses, and exhibit higher levels of attention and well-being. (Bento & Dias, 2017 in The importance of outdoor play for young children's healthy development) To quote Erin K. Kennt, author of the book Forest Kindergartens, "Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls."

- Children are encouraged to be stewards of their environment and for the animals in their care. Through this, they are learning how to be gentle with vulnerable critters (from stick insects and butterflies to bunnies) and are slowly taking on more care-taking responsibilities. Through this exposure to natural organisms, our daughter is endlessly curious (instead of afraid) about all the various creatures she finds in our backyard.
- Similarly, children are expected to be good stewards of their playthings and school environment. This has translated wonderfully to our home environment, where our barely two-year-old daughter clears her own plate and loads it in the dishwasher after meals, helps prepare the meals, sets the table, sorts clean laundry, puts her clothes in the laundry basket, tidies up her toys after she is done playing with them, and cleans up any spills and drips if furnished with the appropriate tools. While she is strong-willed and fussy about a great many things, she does these tasks willingly at home because they are an extension of some of the expectations Nature's Lab has for their kiddos.
- Nature's Lab Playschool has a Spanish-immersion component that I find invaluable. The children engage with the caretakers in Spanish roughly 60% of the time. I have witnessed my daughter receiving complex instructions in Spanish from Nature's Lab staff and respond accordingly. While I do not expect my daughter to grow up fully bilingual, having exposure to a second language during the critical language learning period allows children to intuitively understand that languages vary systematically; this will facilitate greater ease of language learning for her in the future. As a multicultural, multiracial, and multilinguistic family, this was a high priority for us and one we feel very lucky to have found in Nature's Lab.
- The staff is absolutely fantastic. Our daughter has bonded with every child care provider at Nature's Lab and speaks of them fondly at home. In a place where we have no extended family, they dually fill the role of aunt, cousin, etc and provide an alternative adult role model, one that is likely more positive than stressed-out working from home parents. :)

We feel tremendously fortunate to have found Nature's Lab Playschool for our daughter. We sincerely hope that Nature's Lab will be permitted to open it's new facility in the very near future and welcome additional children in dire need of the same high-quality childcare that has allowed our daughter to thrive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any additional or outstanding questions.

Warm regards,

Jane Grabowski, Au.D.
520.891.5263

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 005

From: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
To: [Munoz, Alma](#); [Townsend, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Childcare Facility Nature's Lab Playschool
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:21:04 PM

Flo Evans
Clerk of the Board Office
P 916-874-8150 | C 916-599-0112

From: Jane Grabowski <jane.grabowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Clerk of the Board Public Email <BoardClerk@saccounty.net>
Subject: Letter of Support for Childcare Facility Nature's Lab Playschool

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, do not click links/attachments.

Dear Members of the Sac County Community Planning Advisory Councils,

I am writing this letter in support of my toddler daughter's daycare facility, Nature's Lab Playschool, currently located in a home-based environment in Carmichael. Nature's Lab Playschool is looking to move to a larger facility nearby for a number of reasons, among those to accommodate the many families awaiting a high-quality childcare spot in a region with abysmal availability for child care in the first place. According to 2017 figures from [childdata.org](#), only 28.2% of children whose parents are part of the labor force can be accommodated through existing childcare options; this statistic likely looks more grim in a post-Covid world after many (roughly 10%) of child care-providing facilities in California have closed. With these bleak figures, there's hardly any bandwidth left on conversations about quality.

Despite the terrible odds of securing child care in Sac County, our family was tremendously fortunate to find Nature's Lab Playschool in December 2018, shortly after owner Silvia Anderson opened her facility. Our daughter was close to a year old and we had cobbled together childcare by taking leaves from our respective professions, scaling back on our workload (and income) and flying relatives in from other states on a monthly basis as a stop-gap measure. Our daughter immediately took to the mostly outdoor, play-based environment at Nature's Lab and immediately bonded with the staff. While we did not have a choice of daycare facility per se (since no other options were available for children under 2 to us at the time), had we had a choice, we would have still chosen Nature's Lab Playschool. The things that set Nature's Lab apart from the other many many facilities that we toured (but had no availability for years to come) include:

- Children are encouraged to engage in self-directed play with natural, open-ended materials outside, rain or shine. This supports our own parenting philosophies and is in line with the evidence base for child development. Children with access to outdoor play-based activities are less likely to be obese, have stronger immune systems, are less likely to contract communicable illnesses, and exhibit higher levels of attention and well-being. (Bento & Dias, 2017 in The importance of outdoor play for young children's healthy development) To quote Erin K. Kennt, author of the book Forest Kindergartens, "Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls."
- Children are encouraged to be stewards of their environment and for the animals in their care. Through this, they are learning how to be gentle with vulnerable critters (from stick insects and butterflies to bunnies) and are slowly taking on more care-taking responsibilities. Through this exposure to natural organisms, our daughter is endlessly curious (instead of afraid) about all the various creatures she finds in our backyard.

- Similarly, children are expected to be good stewards of their playthings and school environment. This has translated wonderfully to our home environment, where our barely two-year-old daughter clears her own plate and loads it in the dishwasher after meals, helps prepare the meals, sets the table, sorts clean laundry, puts her clothes in the laundry basket, tidies up her toys after she is done playing with them, and cleans up any spills and drips if furnished with the appropriate tools. While she is strong-willed and fussy about a great many things, she does these tasks willingly at home because they are an extension of some of the expectations Nature's Lab has for their kiddos.
- Nature's Lab Playschool has a Spanish-immersion component that I find invaluable. The children engage with the caretakers in Spanish roughly 60% of the time. I have witnessed my daughter receiving complex instructions in Spanish from Nature's Lab staff and respond accordingly. While I do not expect my daughter to grow up fully bilingual, having exposure to a second language during the critical language learning period allows children to intuitively understand that languages vary systematically; this will facilitate greater ease of language learning for her in the future. As a multicultural, multiracial, and multilinguistic family, this was a high priority for us and one we feel very lucky to have found in Nature's Lab.
- The staff is absolutely fantastic. Our daughter has bonded with every child care provider at Nature's Lab and speaks of them fondly at home. In a place where we have no extended family, they dually fill the role of aunt, cousin, etc and provide an alternative adult role model, one that is likely more positive than stressed-out working from home parents. :)

We feel tremendously fortunate to have found Nature's Lab Playschool for our daughter. We sincerely hope that Nature's Lab will be permitted to open it's new facility in the very near future and welcome additional children in dire need of the same high-quality childcare that has allowed our daughter to thrive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any additional or outstanding questions.

Warm regards,

Jane Grabowski, Au.D.
520.891.5263

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 006

From: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
To: [Munoz, Alma](#); [Townsend, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: Nature's Lab
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:50:20 PM

Flo Evans
Clerk of the Board Office
P 916-874-8150 | C 916-599-0112

From: Kate Myers <katemyers@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Clerk of the Board Public Email <BoardClerk@saccounty.net>
Subject: Nature's Lab

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Greetings,

I am writing to show my support in the opening of the new Natures Lab location. My two daughters attended this school at the original location. What Silvia had done with the space she had was impressive! Each day, my daughters were engaged by kid directed STEAM play through building with tools, climbing trees, tending to (and playing with) chickens, creating artwork from items found in nature (leaf prints on paint comes to mind), and a number of other activities. They would begin each day with songs and yoga and talking about what new things they were going to try that day. I am excited to see what she creates for the kids with more space and resources.

Although I was very impressed by several facets of this program, I was particularly impressed with she and her staff's approach to engaging with the kids of all ages through Conscious Discipline strategies. She provided us with parent seminars where we too could learn these techniques. Having parents and caregivers on the same page created a calm and predictable environment for my young girls. And the techniques themselves were priceless in changing our home from one of fits and conflict, to respectful talk and problem-solving.

I would also like to point out that I tried a handful of daycare's prior to finding Nature's Lab; I have 3 children, the oldest is 12. Of all that my children attended, I never felt that my kids were in danger or under mediocre care, like I did at other daycare's. This organization follows strict protocols without exception and I knew my girls were safe and loved. My only regret is that I didn't have this daycare to send all of my children to!

My girls never wanted to go home and slept well each night! It is with great confidence that I recommend Nature's Lab as an asset to the community and a welcomed inspiration to childcare programs everywhere.

Thank you,
Kate Myers
916-397-7957

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 007

From: [Kristle Kendrick](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Subject: PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment; Nature's Lab School
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:30:30 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wanted to share our experience with Nature's Lab School. Nature's Lab School is more than a school, it is a community. Our son has been enrolled there since January 2019, and we only wish it had been sooner. Silvia Anderson and her team provide a loving, nurturing environment for our children to thrive, learn, play and foster relationships. My son has learned so much at Nature's Lab School, such as how to explore the outdoors, how to care for animals, how to respect nature, how to be kind, how to experiment with science, and how to speak and comprehend Spanish. We are grateful for the time he spends with Silvia, her staff and the other children. We hope you grant the conditional use permit as Nature's Lab School is a significant benefit to our community. Thank you for taking the time to read our experience.

With kind regards,

The Kendrick Family
Kristle Kendrick

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 008

From: [Michael Fazio](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Cc: [Elena Virgadamo](#)
Subject: PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment; Nature's Lab School
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:12:12 AM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Dear Clerk,

I write in support of the application of Nature Lab, LLC for a preschool use permit amendment. I am a parent of a student at the school. Nature's Lab has been a wonderful environment for my child to learn and grow. Led by an exceptional team of educators, the staff provides a safe, structured, fun environment for the children. It's teaching philosophy, outdoor concept, bilingual instruction, and excellent faculty make it a standout school environment. The new school facility will enhance the learning environment for our daughter and other students at the school. We urge you to support Nature Lab's application.

Sincerely,

Michael Fazio

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 009

From: [Ali Ess](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Subject: Support for: Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:14:17 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Hello,

I wanted to write in to support the development of Nature's Lab Pre School in Sacramento. Nature's lab is run by kind, compassionate and loving caregivers/educators. My son has benefited greatly from the open-ended space and emphasis on emotional wellness and independence.

I look forward to the move to their new location, I think it will be an asset to Sacramento!

Sincerely,

Alison Sampson
Mother/High School Teacher
M.Ed.

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 010

From: [Kate Myers](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Subject: PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment; Nature's Lab School
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:40:17 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Greetings,

I am writing to show my support in the opening of the new Natures Lab location. My two daughters attended this school at the original location. What Silvia had done with the space she had was impressive! Each day, my daughters were engaged by kid directed STEAM play through building with tools, climbing trees, tending to (and playing with) chickens, creating artwork from items found in nature (leaf prints on paint comes to mind), and a number of other activities. They would begin each day with songs and yoga and talking about what new things they were going to try that day. I am excited to see what she creates for the kids with more space and resources.

Although I was very impressed by several facets of this program, I was particularly impressed with she and her staff's approach to engaging with the kids of all ages through Conscious Discipline strategies. She provided us with parent seminars where we too could learn these techniques. Having parents and caregivers on the same page created a calm and predictable environment for my young girls. And the techniques themselves were priceless in changing our home from one of fits and conflict, to respectful talk and problem-solving.

I would also like to point out that I tried a handful of daycare's prior to finding Nature's Lab; I have 3 children, the oldest is 12. Of all that my children attended, I never felt that my kids were in danger or under mediocre care, like I did at other daycare's. This organization follows strict protocols without exception and I knew my girls were safe and loved. My only regret is that I didn't have this daycare to send all of my children to!

My girls never wanted to go home and slept well each night! It is with great confidence that I recommend Nature's Lab as an asset to the community and a welcomed inspiration to childcare programs everywhere.

Thank you,
Kate Myers
916-397-7957

ITEM 1 CPAC PUBLIC COMMENT 011

From: [Taylor Miroglio](#)
To: [Clerk of the Board Public Email](#)
Subject: PLNP2019-00366 - Sac Metro Preschool Use Permit Amendment; Nature's Lab School
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:43:02 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, **do not** click links/attachments.

Hi there,

I am writing to you today in full support of the Nature's Lab School expansion. My daughter, Joey, has thrived in their outdoor environment and we have seen tremendous improvements in her development since she started at Nature's Lab.

The environment creates such a diverse learning environment, and we honestly have not found any type of similar carehild offered within 50 miles of our home.

The staff is phenomenal. My husband and I feel so secure knowing our daughter is in such good hands and learning SO much every day.

Thank you,

Taylor

--

Taylor | 916.342.1100
taylormiroglio@gmail.com