



First Years Preschool

Margaret Grundstein
Director

October 31, 2009

Dear Zoning Commissioner:

Attached are copies of signatures and letters from neighbors adjacent to First Years Preschool located at 1010 Amoroso as well as letters from families in the larger neighborhood. I did not attempt to get a signature or letter from every family on our block or in the school as it seemed like overkill and often families were not home when I knocked. If more letters or signatures are desired I am happy to provide them.

Of note is the fact that signatures or letters are included from every property owner adjacent to 1010 Amoroso or immediately across the street, the properties most affected by our presence.

Sincerely



Margaret Grundstein

1010 Amoroso Place
Venice, California 90291

310.399.3120
310.452.5131 FAX
fyvenice@aol.com

October 20, 2009

Re: First Years School

I am a neighbor across the street from the wonderful First Years School. I have lived in my home on Amoroso Place since 1973 and have watched the neighborhood turn back into a wonderful mix of young families and small children. Having the school across the street from us has always been a source of joy to watch the families with their children coming and going to school right in the neighborhood. Parking is a challenge, but First Years has always been aware of the neighbors and has gone out of their way to respect the residents on the block. That cannot be said for the businesses on Lincoln Boulevard. I have gone to visit the school and volunteered at times to read. I find the atmosphere very committed to the children's well being and education, as well as many fun activities. The staff is always friendly and put the well being of the children as their top priority. First Years School is definitely an asset to the neighborhood families and how wonderful to have a pre-school right on your own block.

Kathryn Ridgway
1017 Amoroso Pl.
Venice

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Ridgway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

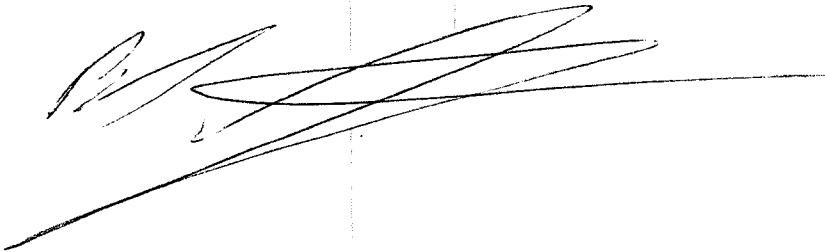
October 22, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner of the 1009 Amoroso, the house directly opposite First Years Preschool and I own the commercial properties adjacent to my house at 1906 Lincoln Blvd. I am writing in support of First Year's application for another ten year renewal of their Conditional Use Permit. We have been neighbors since the school opened twenty years ago. They are an asset to the neighborhood and work hard to mitigate any impact they might have on parking and traffic. I support the continuation of First Years Preschool at its present location of 1010 Amoroso.

Sincerely,

Robert Hatzenbeller

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hatzenbeller', written over a horizontal line.



2044 South Armacost Avenue, 2nd Floor
West Los Angeles, CA 90025

Jon Brady
Bureau Chief

Zoning Administrator
City of Los Angeles

October 22, 2009

I am writing in support of the renewal of the First Years Preschool Conditional Use Permit for a ten year extension.

My family and I have lived seven doors down from First Years since April 2000. They have been a terrific neighbor and a real positive influence on the street and the neighborhood.

Along with allowing local youngsters to go to a top notch school in walking distance of home, they are good stewards of their property, are careful to make sure parents picking up and dropping off students don't double park or block driveways, and it's great to see families walking up and down the sidewalk together – it very much adds to the community feel of the area and helps people get to know one another.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further. I look forward to having First Years Preschool on our street for another ten years and beyond.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon and Alexandra Brady". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jon and Alexandra Brady
1038 Amoroso Place
Venice, CA 90291

October 21, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

My daughter has attended First Years pre school for the past two years. Last year she was a member of the toddler program and this year she is in her first year of pre school. The school is an incredible asset to the community providing an excellent loving learning environment for our children. The school has been situated on Amoroso Street in Venice for years and works very hard to make sure the school and its parking have little impact on the neighborhood. All of the families who are part of First Years are given a written document outlining the parking rules and those rules are strictly enforced.

I can not speak highly enough about the school and its importance. For that reason I am recommending the conditional use permit be renewed for the school as it has been in the past. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions,

Regards,
Erika Carter
617 901 4040

Erika Carter

*4719 Roma Court
Marina del Rey 90291*

Chris & Lisa Udelson-Nee
813 Crestmoore Place
Venice CA 90291

10/21/09

RE: First Years Preschool Conditional Use Permit

To Whom It May Concern:

As a longtime Venice resident, and newer member of the First Years Community, I'm writing to urge that you renew the First Years Conditional Use Permit. Having a great, small, community-oriented preschool within walking distance of our home is a huge advantage and one that makes our community all the more desirable.

Being able to walk to school reduces our impact on the community around us, and allows us to become more integrated in the lives of the people and business that surround us.

As new First Years Parents, I can't stress enough how seriously they take their impact on the neighborhood. All parents are asked to read, sign and agree to very specific conditions that relate to easing our presence on the street. The penalties for non-compliance are high. That's as it should be. As we strive to raise our children to be great citizens of the world, it starts right here at home. First Years knows that asking the parents to be good neighbors is the first step to having us raise good neighbors.

Please, make sure that First Years is able to continue its mission of creating the next generation of Westsiders who will care for our coastal communities into the future.

Thank you,

Chris Nee & Lisa Udelson

813 Crestmoore Pl
Venice 90291

October 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of First Years Preschool and renewing it's Conditional Use Permit. First Years School is an incredible asset to the Venice and Mar Vista Community. The school provides nurturing education for children and rich support for families. The environment is clean and ecological, and the parents and teacher work together to create harmony the with the neighbors. After 2 years of attending the school, I have gotten friendly with the neighbors. I like Robert in the pink house who decorates his house for the holidays (mostly for the children at First Years) and saves cats. We are lucky to have so much available parking on Lincoln Blvd. The ample parking on Lincoln makes drop-offs and pick-ups easy.

I don't know what I would do with our the support of First Years. My family benefits on a daily basis from the information I receive from the teachers and staff. I just recently found out that my daughter needs some special education and has some "sensory processing" issues. I never would have known about it, as her condition is only discernible when she is an an active, social environment AND there are sensitive and watchful teachers to report her activities and challenges. Because of First Years, my daughter is now getting the help she needs. As early intervention is the key in these situations, Delilah will thrive with her new program that First Years has helped to set up.

Thank you for renewing the R1 zoning for a non-conforming commercial use of this wonderful school and learning place. Venice and Mar Vista wouldn't be the same without First Years.

Thank You,
Deborah Poppink Hirshland

11910 Victoria
LA 90066

October 19, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

We write to express our strong support in favor of granting First Years Preschool a Conditional Use Permit.

First Years is a tremendous resource to us as a family, and also to the community. It's difficult to express just how grateful we are to the school and its staff for the amazing community-focused school they have developed.

First Years is dedicated to being a great neighbor, and is very considerate of nearby families and homes and of parking regulations.

It means the world to us to have First Years so close to our house in Venice; we walk to and from school and very much appreciate this convenience!

Hats off to Margaret and her team for producing such a positive and incredible place for Venice's youth! Please let them continue this work by granting the Conditional Use Permit.

Many thanks,

Matthew and Deborah Moroz

1240 Palms
Venice 90291

October 22, 2009

Leila Feinstein

KTLA-TV
Reporter/Anchor
5800 Sunset Blvd
LA, CA 90028
323-460-5442
October 21, 2008

To the Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to you on behalf of First Years Preschool in Venice. I hope that you will agree that they should get a ten year extension on the Conditional Use Permit. First Years Preschool helps the community in so many ways. They raise money for different community organizations and they routinely help clean and beautify their surrounding community. First Years is also very respectful of their neighbors and continue to be a good partner in the community.

As a reporter and anchor in Los Angeles I cover so many schools that are in shambles and where the students feel like their is no hope. First Years is a beacon of Hope. The school is run like one big family and the students graduate with a love of learning. I hope you will strongly consider extending their Conditional Use Permit.

Sincerely,
Leila Feinstein

*2239 Penmar
Venice Ca 90291*



**BULLDOG
REALTORS**

10/23/2009

Re: First Years Preschool
Conditional Use Permit

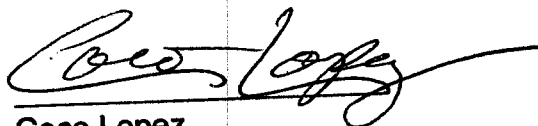
To whom it may concern,
I am writing to voice my support of First Years Preschool, and the outstanding service to the community that they provide. I do not live in Venice, however, I do work on Abbot Kinney and having such a superior preschool in the area, a place where I know that that my child is learning and growing and being loved, makes it possible for me to be more effective at my own job.

I have a long standing connection to Margaret Grundstein and First Years Preschool; when I was a child I went to her family daycare located on Palms and Glyndon, a few blocks away. I was there at the fund raising "box car derby", and for the grand opening party of the preschool in '89. My youngest cousin was a student in the early nineties, and when I graduated college and moved back to Venice in the late nineties, I had a job there teaching the toddler group. Now that I have a daughter of my own, there is no other preschool or daycare that I would ever even consider. Margaret and the wonderful people of First Years Preschool have been here with the neighborhood as it has grown both more popular and wealthier. They were here when Venice was still a ghetto, providing me and countless other neighborhood children with excellent early childhood education and development opportunities that were otherwise not readily available. Now that our area has flourished, they are still here, and happily, getting the recognition that they deserve. First years is one of the most sought after preschools on the west side, and it's no wonder: they are a top notch organization, a community pillar, fabulous educators, and really nice people.

I recognize that having a preschool on any particular block will effect the community, especially when it comes to parking & additional traffic, however, I'd like to point out that first years has a Very strict, practically zero-tolerance policy for parking violations. They make it clear to all families from the outset that parking, and keeping the neighbors happy, is a top priority. Personally, I usually park on Lincoln Blvd, where there is almost always abundant 1 hour parking available.

Please grant First Years Preschool another conditional use permit for the next 10 years. The enormous benefit that they provide far outweighs any costs, and our community is immeasurably richer for their presence.

Thank you for your time and consideration,


Coco Lopez



PARDEE

Making a Difference, One by One.



TAMI PARDEE

October 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I have two daughters, one of which is a graduate of First Years Preschool and one who has just started her first year at the school. My experience with the teachers and the tight knit group of parents has been so wonderful and comforting. Being able to leave your child at a safe and trustworthy facility is not only important but quite relieving as well. The teachers are dedicated to the children and their families one hundred percent. They make the foundation of this community strong by ensuring the youngest generation is learning and making friends, in their First Years of life. Not only do the children make friends, but so do the parents. To this day, many of the parents I met from First Years are now close friends of mine; we support and advise each other on parenting or any life topic for that matter.

Preschool is by far one of the most important stages in a child's life. They are taught how to socialize and interact in a school setting with peers and teachers. This is such a priceless quality, as simple as it may seem, but still one of the basics that will be carried with them for the rest of their lives. First Years has such qualified staff who make it a personal commitment to see that all of the children who walk through the doors are nurtured and educated.

My intention of this letter is to ensure that I relay my utmost appreciation for this preschool, and spread the word on their commitment to the growth and well-being of this community. As we all know, the young generations will eventually play vital roles in society and the First Years of their lives will determine so much not only in their personal lives, but their public lives as well.

Warmest Regards,

Michael and Tami Pardee

phone: 310/600-7217

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The Starfish Story

Thousands of starfish washed ashore.

A little girl began throwing them in the water so they wouldn't die.

"Don't bother, dear," her mother said, "it won't make a difference."

The girl stopped for a moment and looked at the starfish in her hand.

"It will make a difference to this one."

- Amy Domini

SUSANNE & CLAES NYSTROM

October 20, 2009
Regarding:
First Years Preschool
1010 Amoroso Place
Venice, CA 90291

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to show our support of the upcoming renewal of First Years Preschool's conditional use R1 zoning permit.

The value of this local neighborhood preschool is incalculable to us and our three year old son. The school looks and feels like a home, which makes for a welcoming and easy transition for both students, parents and teachers.

This is a high quality local school in a home-like environment, which makes for a pleasant and efficient learning center for young children. We have not been able to find a better local alternative to First Years in any other school we've looked at, from Culver City to Marina Del Rey. In our opinion, the continued operation of First Years must not be jeopardized.

As residents of the same neighborhood, we'd also like to attest to the fact that we have not once been bothered by the school's activities at any point. Had we not known their location, one could never have guessed that there even is a school there. They take great pride in blending in with the neighborhood, something which is very apparent once you enter the premises. By design, all their activities take place either in their bright daylight indoors or in the nice back yard which neighbors an alley. The noise level is surprisingly low due to the physical layout, but also due to their healthy teaching methods.

The unique combination of location, teaching methodology, social climate, and general vibe of First Years Preschool is as close to perfect as it can get for us and our son. It would without doubt be a detriment to the local community if their continued operations were to be interrupted. We support the renewal of any permit they need to continue doing what they do -- 100%.

Respectfully,

Susanne & Claes Nystrom

October 20, 2009

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing in support of the application for First Years Preschool to renew their Conditional Use permit.

I am a parent at First Years but i am also a neighbor. I live three blocks away on a street very similar to theirs. We often walk or scooter to school. As someone with small children in this neighborhood it is important to me that the streets that cross Lincoln Ave remain slow, and that the amount of cars that are trying to get across the boulevard are not the ones who set the pace. The amazing thing is that even though there is a lot of activity with all the children coming and going, the street in front of the school remains very calm. There is so little impact as far as cars, parking, traffic from the parents of the school. There is an effortless flow even at the most busy times. And most of the time you wouldn't even know that there is a school there.

I'm sure you are aware of the value of the school itself - so many families have relied on Margaret and her impeccable staff to provide safe, enriching care for their children for so many years. They set the standard for childcare in our community that only a few can live up to.

I can wholeheartedly support their application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very Best regards,

Clare Carey

1025 Nowita Pl. Venice, Ca. 90291

10/21/09

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently moved to Venice, and my daughter now attends First Years Preschool. We looked all over the city for preschools, from Venice to Santa Monica to Culver City, and we found First Years to be a truly exceptional school. Upon my first visit to First Years I was immediately won over by the warmth, intimacy and the focused direction of Margaret and her assistant directors. Later I was surprised to see how the school, was so involved in the community. Margaret offers parenting classes every month with free childcare, which gives us parents a place to learn and share from each other. Not only is First Year a place for planting seeds of confidence, creativity and curiosity in children, but First Year brings diverse families together forming a community of support and friendships that will last a lifetime. Having a diverse student body, which reflects the diversity of Venice and the surrounding neighborhoods, is very important to Margaret, this was immediately evident to me because she was so excited at the thought of having my daughter, who is African-American, in the school. Also, having raised her own daughters just down the street from the school makes it easy to see how she is deeply committed to the overall health and wellbeing of the children in this community. I feel very fortunate to have a place like First Years in my neighborhood. It is an asset to the community and, for that reason; I fully support the renewal of their conditional use permit.

Angela Hughes
608 Westminister
Venice, Ca. 90291

10/24/09

Chris Lindsey and Miki Yoshimoto
12437 Woodgreen St.
Los Angeles, CA 90066


To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of First Years Preschool located at 1010 Amoroso in Venice, CA with regards to the renewal of their Conditional Use Permit. We are a family living nearby in Mar Vista and would like to stress the importance of the school to the local community. Margaret Grundstein, the school's director, has created an exemplary school where children are nurtured and thrive and parents form an involved community. From our experience with preschools in the area, First Years offers the highest level of care and learning environment where the children actually look forward to being there. We could not recommend another school more highly to those seeking a preschool for their child.

One of the keys to the school's success is their integration into the surrounding neighborhood and sensitivity to their neighbors. As the school is situated at the edge of a residential neighborhood and commercial area, they make great efforts to ensure that their neighbors are not impacted by the daily flow of traffic to and from the school during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup. They strongly communicate the need for parents to follow strict guidelines for parking in the area to ensure that neither businesses nor residents are inconvenienced in any way. Certain areas have been established as off-limits to parking and blocking residential driveways is strictly prohibited. Penalties, including ejection from enrollment at the school, are enforced, in the event that parking rules are not followed.

Not only providing an excellent preschool facility, First Years takes their responsibility of being a good neighbor seriously. We look forward to their continued presence in our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris", written over a horizontal line.



AMUSE

10/21/09

The Rohmers
944 Oxford Avenue
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

To Whom It May Concern:

As residents of Marina del Rey, and huge fans of First Years Preschool, we'd like to express our strong support for the renewal of First Year Preschool's Conditional Use Permit to use an R1 zoning for a non-conforming use.

First Years Preschool represents everything you would hope for in Venice that enriches the surrounding community and is one of the reasons our family feels so at home in the Marina del Rey/Venice area. The preschool teaches strong values to young children including respecting your neighbors, which is evident in the courtesy that extends from the school, through the parents who are careful to observe proper drop off procedures so not to inconvenience neighbors.

Having a trusting, loving place for our children to begin their earliest socializing is a gift to the community. We'd greatly appreciate the renewal of First Years R1 zoning so the preschool can continue to provide the community with it's wonderful service.

Sincerely,

Bridget, Matt & Amelia Rohmer

10/21/09

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a recent transplant to Venice, and my daughter now attends First Years Preschool. We looked all over the city for preschools, from Venice to Santa Monica to Culver City, and we found First Years to be a truly exceptional school. I was impressed enough by their philosophy and curriculum, but I was surprised to see how the school, under the very sensitive and knowledgeable direction of Margaret and her assistant directors, was so involved in the community. Margaret offers parenting classes every month with free childcare, which gives us parents a place to learn and share from each other. Having a diverse student body, which reflects the diversity of Venice and the surrounding neighborhoods, is also very important to Margaret. This was immediately evident to me because she was so excited at the thought of having my daughter, who is African-American, in the school. Also, having raised her own daughters just down the street from the school makes it easy to see how she is deeply committed to the overall health and wellbeing of the children in this community.

As a resident of Venice, I feel very fortunate to have a place like First Years in my neighborhood. It is an asset to the community and, for that reason, I fully support the renewal of their conditional use permit.

Sincerely,

Arnell Powell