



**The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council**  
**El Consejo de Planeación de Cuidado Infantil del Condado de Santa Cruz**  
**[www.childcareplanning.org](http://www.childcareplanning.org)**

December 8, 2006

City of Santa Cruz  
Planning and Community Development Department  
General Plan Update  
809 Center Street, Room 206  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Members of the Santa Cruz City General Plan Advisory Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the 2005-2020 General Plan for the City of Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council would like to offer recommendations for the future of early care and education and school-age services in the city of Santa Cruz.

We applaud the work of past City Council Members in addressing affordability and accessibility of quality Early Care and Education included in the current General Plan. We strongly suggest that the city retain all current policies that are in place and add the recommendations listed here to update and improve the plan.

In developing these recommendations, members of the Policy and Local Planning Committee of the Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council have built upon our 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment, 2006 Priorities Report, and the 2005-2006 Geo-Mapping Children's Vulnerability in Santa Cruz County, a report from First 5 Santa Cruz County. Additionally we have reviewed General Plans from other California jurisdictions, some of which contain an entire element devoted to Early Care and Education.

We believe these recommendations will help to round out Santa Cruz' policies on Early Care and Education and afterschool programs, providing for the continued and expanded services needed by our city's children and families.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these recommendations. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely

Naomi Brauner  
CCPC Policy and Local Planning Committee co-Chair

Carole Mulford  
CCPC Policy and Local Planning Committee co-Chair  
County Office of Education Child Development Programs Manager

**Recommendations from the Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council  
to the General Plan Advisory Council  
December 8, 2006**

**Vision for Early Care and Education in Santa Cruz City:**

Santa Cruz City has an adequate and diverse supply of affordable, high quality Early Care and Education programs, facilities and services to meet the needs of families (especially low and moderate income families) who live and/or work in Santa Cruz.

**Goal A: To ensure that an adequate and diverse supply of Early Care and Education facilities and services is available to parents who live and/or work in Santa Cruz.**

**Policies:**

1. The City shall provide information to assist Early Care and Education providers in getting started and licensed.
2. Early Care and Education facilities shall not be precluded in any land use designation except the Open Space and Heavy Industrial designations.
3. Family day care homes shall be permitted uses in all residential land use designations.
4. The City shall streamline processing and permit regulations to promote the development of Early Care and Education facilities.
5. Family day care homes shall be exempted from payment of City business license fees.
6. The City shall consider promoting, through density bonuses, the provision of Early Care and Education facilities in new developments accommodating intensive occupancy use.

**Goal B: To provide for affordable Early Care and Education facilities and services for all Santa Cruz residents and employees, including low- and moderate-income families.**

**Policies:**

1. The City shall financially support and promote subsidized Early Care and Education for low- and moderate-income families in Santa Cruz.
2. The City shall encourage the development of Early Care and Education facilities within the Redevelopment Project Area to serve the needs of low- and moderate-income families.
3. The City shall promote the availability of lower-cost insurance or establishment of insurance pools for Early Care and Education providers.

**Goal C: To ensure that new development provides for Early Care and Education facilities and services to meet associated demand.**

**Policies:**

1. The City shall establish and maintain a position of Early Care and Education coordinator, either as a new position, or as a part time responsibility of existing staff, to work with parents and providers in Santa Cruz and administer the City's Early Care and Education programs.
  2. The City shall encourage the inclusion of Early Care and Education facilities or payment of in-lieu fees in multifamily housing projects, especially those which serve single parents.
  3. The City shall consider the impacts on the demand for Early Care and Education in the city in its environmental review of development projects, and shall encourage developers to mitigate these impacts.
  4. The City shall encourage new developments to mitigate the impacts on Early Care and Education demand in Santa Cruz by either providing Early Care and Education facilities or through the payment of in-lieu fees.
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**Goal D: To provide for high quality Early Care and Education facilities and programs.**

**Policies:**

1. The City shall encourage training and education programs for Early Care and Education workers in Santa Cruz.
  2. The City shall publicize and promote child development classes and related Early Care and Education courses offered at local community colleges and universities.
  3. The City shall publicize certified CPR courses and other health and safety training, as deemed necessary, to Early Care and Education workers to promote safety in Education facilities and programs.
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