

Deborah Lynn B.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 30 year resident of Staten Island, a 10 year resident of Richmond Town, a parent of two children (ages six and three) and a full time working mother whose children attend Steps to Success II located on Hylan Boulevard. Most importantly, I am a supporter of the project being proposed to you today, the building of an earlier childhood daycare and afterschool program in our community.

Back in 2005 when I had my infant, there were very limited choices of daycares on the Northeast section of Staten Island where I have resided my since I was five. In my search for daycare and schools there were three primary items I required and expected of the provider:

1. Professional and loving childcare providers,
2. A clean and modern environment and,
3. A school who holds early childhood education as the primary driver to the overall success and well being of a child's future.

When I enrolled my children into Steps, I knew I made the right decision as a parent.

Please support this growing school for the community and consider it a future investment for our children. If we really want more for our children as Staten Islanders and parents, this school should be considered the benchmark and role model to all other providers and including some of our public schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Deborah B.

Regina F

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you today as a resident of Staten Island, a community member, constituent and a parent of two little girls who attend Steps to Success. I praise the efforts of the school's facilitators and its teachers on their dedication to education, which is delivered with quality care in a friendly, loving environment. Their approach to education is structured and effective. Their team is dedicated to getting our children ready for elementary school and advancements in my children can be seen daily. Just the other day my 4 year old told me that she was going to write a book, she informed me that she would be the "author" and "illustrator" of her story. I am certain that this was just one of the lessons she picked up at Steps, I could not be any prouder.

As a parent of first generation American children and a Russian/Jewish American myself, I have found a sense of community at the school too. They have a terrific Russian enrichment program, which my children partake in and love. In addition to the cultural program and the daily progress reports, e-mails are often sent to parents informing them of various community events that may have otherwise been missed, if not for the efforts of the school administration. The school has uniquely established itself as the liaison to the Russian parents and the community in which they live. I am certain with this new school, new opportunities will arise for other children to join Steps to Success. I only wish they would expand the curriculum to meet the demands of elementary education, although I am certain that the tools my little ones will receive here, will equip them for their academic futures where ever that may be.

Sincerely,

Regina F

Nord-East Realty Group, LLC.

Tel: 718.234.9617 | Fax: 718.228.8300
www.northeastrealtygroup.com



To whom it may concern:

My son attends day care program at Steps to Success 2 at 2975 Hylan Blvd on Staten Island. Ever since he started attending, we realized a great improvement in social skills, speaking manner and community involvement. Staff is very professional and attentive, facility shows great upkeep and code compliance.

I have been personally involved in placement and development of number of daycare facilities ranging from small at-home care to mega franchise centers for The Learning Experience and Fastrack Kids and I can confidently say, that it is a great honor and benefit to Staten Island community to have such a great enterprise. Facility expansion will allow Steps to Success to extend the benefits of the program to more Staten Island families making the borough an even better place to live.

David Z.

To whom it may concern.

My name is Irina Shvabskaya and I am a mother of two. My youngest son Dennis is four years old now. When he was two years old I was looking for a day care center in our area and I found the "Steps to Success II" day care. I made my decision about using this day care for my son based on **accessibility** and the **quality** of care. I want Dennis to have the best and I want him to have a good start in life so he can go to school fully prepared. We all know that high-quality early care and education have influences that last over a lifetime.

The "Steps to Success II" provide a comprehensive array of services that meet children's physical, social/emotional, and intellectual needs. My son Dennis is receiving a high-quality and high-end child care in "Steps to Success II". Their educational program is unique; the staff is great and is up-to date on latest trends. I see that my son Dennis is definitely getting ready for school. The teachers and administrators are great, they created caring, healthy, and loving atmosphere in the center. My son loved this center, sometimes even on the weekends when they close, he wants to go to the center.

The center location is very convenient for us, because it located just 5 minutes drive from our house. We are very happy to have this center in our community. But not everyone is as lucky as we are, to get their child in the "Steps to Success II", because the center is not big enough to accommodate all children who want to be in the center. At least three of my neighbors are on waiting list, they are not able to send their children in this center because of a limited space. Our community will highly benefit of extension of "Steps to Success II", the reasoning is that if we provide children with high quality programs and social experiences early in life, we reduce the possibility that they will need costly social services later in life, plus it will create new job opportunities for our community.

Irina S

Irina Shvabskaya

To Whom it May Concern:

Steps to Success II has been an ideal place to send my son Anthony while I am at work. The school is convenient because it is so close to my home and transportation to work. In addition the fact that they open at 7am and close at 7pm makes it easy for working parents but most important is the fact that the staff is wonderful. Anthony has been attending the school for about three years now and has learned so much. I receive compliments on how well spoken and sociable he is all the time and attribute that to Steps to Success II. This is not only a day care in a school setting, it really is a school that teaches and cares for our children in the community. When Anthony is ready for elementary school he will have the foundation he needs to further his education. I can not wait until my daughter is old enough to attend.

Sincerely,
Meylan Aponte

Tim V

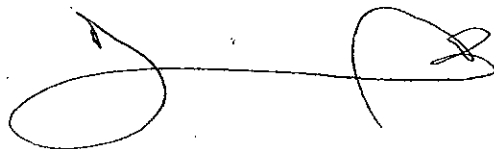
Tel:

Re: Step to Success II

To whom it may concern:

I reside in Oakwood for about 10 years. I am a parent and a small business owner. I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to Step to Success II – truly a remarkable place to deal with. The whole staff starting from the owners is very caring and accommodating. Their teachers are knowledgeable and attentive, and programs are state-of-the-art. I am extremely happy with my child attending Step to Success II along with the level of care and training that he receives there. By the way, I am not in a category that can be easily thrilled.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim V', with a large loop on the left and a smaller loop on the right.

Hello Dear Staff of Step to Success,

We have two children attend programs in your day care and can't say enough how happy I am with that.

We can see our children develop and grow intellectually right before our eyes and that is greatest joy to any parent. Thank you for keeping us posted on all the education programs and food menu, as well as, the daily reports. Those trips as group help children develop and learn the outside world, also explore everything as a group and help prepare them for the outside world and school. Your teachers are very pleasant to work with kids absolutely love them, and I myself sometimes call them for an advice how to handle situations at home if my child starts miss behaving. Fact of the facilities being kept clean is what gives me comfort that even if one child comes to the facilities sick it will be not spread to my children, because facilities get cleaned every night. Christmas show/s was something that our children and us will remember for the rest of our lives with smiles on our faces! You guys went above and beyond to prepare it and it was absolutely amazing!!!

Your open door policy is something that we take advantage off, and we appreciate all of our concerns being addressed. We have great level of comfortless sending out children there and we just want you to know we appreciate everything you are doing for our children. Surely you guys heard it from us before, you are the best, and I can never thank you enough for being there!

Sincerely,

Alla & Vadim P

P.S. You Guys are the best! Thank you!!!!

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kristine. I am of Italian-American decent and have lived on Staten Island for approximately 40 years.

Two years ago my father died suddenly of an Aneurysm in his heart. This changed my life and the life of my daughter Anna who was then 1 1/2 years old. My mother and father were my daughters caretakers while I worked a full time job. My now ex-husband was never available to take on child care responsibilities because he worked as well and was extremely involved with the Rotary Club. My mother naturally slipped into a depression after my father died and told me, "Kristine, I can't watch Anna anymore its just not fair to her. She needs more." I am also a Department of Education employee and had access to the Parenting Magazine and that's how I found Steps to Success II.

I went to see the school and was greeted by Ms. B. She told me, "give us your daughter and we will give you back a new child." Two years later can honestly say that Steps to Success has enriched my daughter's life in every area and strengthened her as a person and me as a mother. The staff truly loves the children and are interested in their well beings and education. Since I am in the field of education, I see first hand how advanced my daughter's education is compared to the New York Public Schools. Steps to Success is a great place to have on Staten Island! All schools should be run just like it. Our communities would benefit. Our children would benefit. Imagine a world with more education?!?!

I beseech you to consider what Steps to Success is proposing and know that their hearts are purely in the best interest in the lives of the children they serve.

Sincerely,

Kristine M:

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Sincerely,

Kristine M

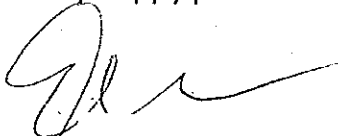
Community Leaders and Borough Representatives:

This is our second year with Steps to Success II child daycare and learning center in Staten Island. I don't know where to begin to tell you how happy I am my daughter attends their Kindergarten program. I feel very confident and secure to leave her there in the morning, knowing that she'll be taken care of in a structural and safe environment. At the end of the day my daughter comes home ecstatic and anticipates the next day return. I contribute all to their knowledgeable and always accessible staff and owners. Clean environment, bright and detail oriented classrooms, monthly distributed new food menu, and etc. (yes, there is so much more). The reason my daughter is intellectually grown up is for the wonderful teachers Steps to Success II offers. Ms. Kim and Ms. Theresa are outstanding and highly motivating teachers.

Our next year is filled with more anticipation when my son starts his journey there. I am more than confident about his development in Steps as my daughter is an excellent example of success.

Please, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The very happy parent of Steps to Success II student,



Elena K.

On behalf of my family, I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts of Steps to Success 2 childcare center and its staff. My grandchildren are attending daycare facility for the past two years and we are highly satisfied with the quality of care they receive.

Steps to Success 2 daycare is open from 7 AM – 7 PM, which gives great opportunity for families with both working parents to fully contribute to the community while making sure that their kids are safe and sound.

Steps to Success 2 is well-managed, and personnel displays great dedication to the children's well-being. Administration and staff are knowledgeable of child nutrition requirements and age-appropriate activities. One of my grandkids is a very picky eater, and sometimes we are having difficulties ensuring that he has a well-balanced diet. However, that did not stop teachers from ensuring that my grandson is always fed and very happy child.

Location of the daycare is very convenient for the parents who commute for work to other boroughs. It also allows grandparents like me (who is not possessing a car) to pick up children when necessary and easily get home using public transportation without major disruption to a normal work schedule.

Also, Steps to Success 2 facilities located near local hospital and in case of emergency child can be given required medical attention very quickly.

Expansion of Steps to Success 2 childcare center is a welcome addition to the neighborhood as great childcare services continue to be needed by the community. The new center will enable more children to be cared for under knowledgeable, supporting and caring personnel of Steps to Success 2 childcare center. We have known that Steps to Success 2 had been dedicated in constructing the center for quite some time, and therefore perseverance and commitment of administration are qualities to applaud, as well.

Sincerely,

Liliya Zenteno

Liliya Z

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer the highest possible praise and support future expansion of Steps to Success 2 daycare facility. As parents of three kids of all different ages, we were very concerned dropping our children at the same place which might not have enough age-appropriate stimulation. Administration of Steps to Success 2 was very understanding of our anxiety and treated us with patience and kindness. Our phone calls were always welcomed and informative and our children always left the daycare happy, safe and loved.

As we have entrusted Steps to Success 2 with our children, we highly recommend, without any reservation, this facility to family looking for childcare. Not only Steps to Success 2 provides children with life, learning, and the discipline skills necessary to success in pre-school; it also provides safe and clean environment.

Additionally, we are very pleased with after-school program provided by Steps to Success 2, which helps numerous school-age kids to succeed in their studies, keeps them off the streets and supports local businesses by providing trips to all local amusements/activities.

Not only Steps to Success 2 facility is providing great care for the kids, its administration is also deeply involved in local community, provides a solid foundation for the community growth and ensures that needs of local residents are met.

Sincerely,

Victoria Zhelezov

Eugene Zhelezov

Victoria and Eugene Z

To whom it may concern,

There are NO words to describe how wonderful Steps to Success is.

I couldn't be more happier with the way their program has taught my daughter new things, from spelling her own name (at age 3 1/2) to knowing opposites, ^{letters, numbers} etc...

She has excelled greatly and I really owe it all to the great regimen the ~~steps~~ daycare has instilled into my child.

I highly recommend Steps to Success to anyone I know who has children and is looking for a daycare that cares!!

Thank you,
Julie Busch
Julie B

Steps to Success II
Staten Island, NY 10306

To whom it may concern:

Re: New School Site for Step to Success II

My daughter, Jessy Chui has been going to Step to Success II (SSII) for almost two years. She will turn four by this summer. Before sending her to SSII, she went to another day care by New Dorp Lane; however, she got sick all the time. The teachers at her old day care are smokers and neglected to change her on time; she ended up absences from school with vascular problems and fungus infection. In addition, that private day care has the same holidays as the public schools; we ended up paying the monthly tuition for nothing.

Luckily SSII opened very near to my home; therefore, either my in-laws or I can walk my daughter to school. SSII also provides a very clean, friendly environment to my daughter. Everyday my daughter comes home very happy with her little assignment and work that she did in school. SSII teaches her self-discipline, independent and respect which I am glad to see her doing.

I have no doubt in recommending my friends to check in SSII if they are looking for day care. When I heard SSII is expanding, I am so thrilled. I totally support SSII and I know they will find the best solution for the parking problem. My family needs them; our community needs them!

Sincerely yours,



Maria C

To Whom It May Concern:

My daughter has been attending Steps to Success II Daycare since September of 2009. Her experience has been both positive and academically stimulating. She is always very excited to get up and go to school in the mornings and she constantly talks about her teachers and friends. As a teacher, I know the importance of working with your child beginning at an early age. Steps to Success II daycare became an instant partner in this area. They have done a fantastic job taking care of my daughter. Most importantly the daycare provides an excellent learning, social, and safe environment for children of all ages.

Overall, Steps to Success offers extensive experience and strong abilities to connect with children, they can definitely offer everything a family would be looking for in a daycare provider.

Sincerely,



Ellen K

To whom it may concern:

Our son attends day care program at Steps to Success 2 at 2975 Hylan Blvd on Staten Island. Ever since he started attending, we realized a great improvement in social skills, speaking manner and community involvement. Staff is very professional and attentive, facility shows great upkeep and code compliance. I have been personally involved in placement and development of number of daycare facilities ranging from small at-home care to mega franchise centers for The Learning Experience and Fastrack Kids and I can say it is a great honor and benefit to Staten Island community to have such a great enterprise. Facility expansion will allow Steps to Success to extend the benefits of the program to more Staten Island residents.

The Z. Family

To Whom It May Concern:

My daughter, Kate, 4 years old, has been attending Steps To Success II for the past year and a half. We have loved this day care from the very first day, where my daughter feels happy, safe, and loved.

I admire the educational process in this school, because it gives very high academic skills to our kids and also includes a physical education program, music program, and many other activities.

All the teachers are highly professional and caring. My daughter not only learned to read, write and count, but also gained good social skills, confidence, and self esteem.

Compared to other day cares that we attended, Step To Success II is far beyond expectation. I'm very happy that my daughter is going to this great school and I hope that this opportunity will be open to other kids.

Sincerely,

Tatyana T