

September 13, 2017

To Whomever This May Concern,

I'm writing to you in hopes that you will seriously consider expanding the child capacity of my son's preschool, ATID.

Two months ago, my husband, myself, and our two young children (Levi-3 years old; Eliya-9 months old) moved from San Francisco. Though we loved San Francisco and will always cherish our time there, we made the move for two very specific reasons: we wanted to be closer to family and we wanted to raise our children in a strong Jewish-Israeli community, both of which we were lacking up north.

We toured numerous preschools for my son, Levi, both secular and religious, but were particularly impressed with the vision ATID was offering. Their curriculum was unique, offering primarily Hebrew-based instruction, with an English teacher supporting bilingual development. As a mother, this was important to me, but as a Speech-Language Pathologist, I was incredibly impressed with this immersive environment. Hebrew is part of our family and culture and it is important to me that Levi be able to communicate with his cousins and other extended family living in Israel.

Furthermore, ATID's curriculum is aimed at focusing on Jewish academics, while also introducing holidays that my child will be exposed to once he transitions to kindergarten and the public schools (e.g., Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc.). This is an essential component for me, because I want my son to be exposed to both cultures in the early years, so that he develops a sense of openness and embraces diversity.

If you talk to any parent at ATID, each one could share with you a story for why they are at ATID. For many, there was just no other option that could compare to this program, with many picking the school simply for the extraordinary teachers, Mali and Osnat. Each and every family enrolled in this school has taken a huge leap of faith and entrusted their children for a school in its first year, and I can say that this is primarily because of these two spectacular instructors. They're fun, loving, carefree and nurturing spirits are extremely important for my child.

I would like to share with you an example of the impact even one day at ATID made on a child. Mali and Osnat have been particularly helpful and nurturing for my son. The last couple of months have been a tremendously challenging transition for my family, and particularly, for my son. Mali and Osnat have both provided unimaginable support and love to him and he has since flourished. Just days before Levi's first day of school, he was crying, screaming, biting his nails, pulling his hair in order to express his intense urge to return to SF. But after his first day at ATID, he said "I love Los Angeles and want to stay."

The community that Mali and Osnat have brought together is spectacular and more parents are waiting for the green light to place their children at this incredible school. In fact, ATID is the

first choice for many other families I've met and know in our community, as they are unable to find another school that can match the curriculum, facility, instructors, or care that ATID offers.

It would be a disservice to the community to deny the expansion of this center's capacity. I truly believe that a larger class size provides an environment that will facilitate an appropriate transition for these students to the public school systems.

I sincerely hope that you consider this letter in your decision-making process. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any additional questions.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Sastiel", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shirley Sastiel