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3-14-15



To: City Council
Attn: Ann Horowitz
From: Priscilla Kostick
Date: March 5, 2015

As the Child Care Specialist for Alicia Orlando, it is my privilege to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application to increase capacity in her daycare home.

Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC) has been a trusted early child care and education resource for families in the Washington Metropolitan area since 1983. Our program provides nurturing care and early childhood education to children in a family setting beginning at 6 weeks of age. As an ITFDC Child Care Specialist, I have known Alicia since June 2014 when she was first assigned to my caseload. I have made monthly visits to her home since that time, and we maintain ongoing communication via phone and email as well. Presently, Alicia cares for 5 children per day in her family day care home.

The children in Alicia's care thrive from her knowledge of sensory and discovery areas. Alicia always leads her group of infants and toddlers in activities that are appropriate to their different developmental levels. Her curriculum includes infant tummy time, reading, music, block/ small motor play, and plenty of outdoor time, among many other activities. She also serves nutritious meals and snacks to the children and ensures that they nap in their designated sleeping areas.

Alicia is a valued childcare provider. She has MAT training, a VQRS Star Rating and has an Associate's Degree from Miami Dade College. To help her, Alicia has her husband, Oscar Orlando, who is an Approved Assistant and Substitute in her day care. Alicia and Oscar both also have countless hours of annual professional development from classes taken through ITFDC. Alicia's portfolio is kept current with her many training certificates. This summer, both Alicia and Oscar will begin working towards their Infant Toddler Career Studies Certificate. This is an advanced level certification through Northern Virginia Community College obtained by hard-working family day care providers who strive for ongoing quality improvement and professionalism in their day care.

Whenever I visit Alicia's home, she has always been prepared with questions about her child care business. For months now, Alicia has been preparing to grow her business to care for a 6th child in her home. Under Infant Toddler Family Day Care policies, Alicia will be eligible to increase capacity, effective June 30, 2015, provided she also has the requisite zoning permit from the City of Alexandria. She intends to care for no more than 6 children at a time (with no more than 3 under 12 months of age) in her family day care, as is the ITFDC maximum capacity.

Alicia is an asset to ITFDC and is sure to be successful in her venture to expand her professional childcare business.

Comment [OA01]: Why is that? Could you expand on why she is not interested in growing her business beyond six?

Comment [PK2]: