



March 16, 2015

To Mayor Euille and Members of Alexandria City Council:

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Richmond, VA 23219  
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[www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org)

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Executive Director

Margaret Nimmo Crowe

I write to you today to thank you for your thoughtfulness for including investments in young children in Alexandria's FY16 budget. The proposed investments in preschool and the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan will help prepare Alexandria's youngest children for school and future success.

Voices for Virginia's Children is a statewide, non-profit, privately-funded child advocacy organization promoting smart policies and investments for children and families. As Voices works to connect the dots and prioritize action at the federal and state level, we also support localities taking bold steps to invest in children. Alexandria is poised to take those bold steps again this coming year.

The city budget proposal calls for an investment in the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan. Voices supports the Children and Youth Master Plan, and the successful implementation means maximizing resources to children and youth in this community. Voices urges the City Council to invest in the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan.

The budget calls for continued funding for early education and school readiness services. Alexandria's model of early learning is gaining attention, not just for crucial prekindergarten opportunities for four-year-olds but also the important work for children birth to age five, in child care and school-based settings. Investments are needed to achieve access to affordable, high-quality early care and education in Alexandria. Voices urges the City Council to invest in early education.

Thank you for your leadership for children and families. Please contact us if we can be of assistance during the budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Nimmo Crowe".

Margaret Nimmo Crowe  
Executive Director