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Expanding Menlo Park preschool program makes sense

The recent article on the Menlo Park City School District hoping to expand its preschool program to accommodate needy preschoolers makes good sense. Some of our most vulnerable children are those in foster care. That's why Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has its volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) work to ensure foster children ages 3 to 5 are enrolled in preschool. We are all too familiar with the statistics cited in the article that show lower high school graduation rates and higher crime rates for those who don't attend preschool. The more we can help children start off on the right foot, the better. Last year, 65 percent of foster children in Santa Clara County with a CASA were enrolled in preschool, compared to only 30 percent of all 3- to 5-year-old children in the dependency system.

Mala Jairam

Board Chair

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley