



First 5 Napa County expresses our unwavering support for the expansion and relocation of Le Petit Elephant Nursery and Preschool. This initiative aligns with our mission to nurture and enhance the developmental journey of every child in our community. Additionally, quality childcare propels the economy and supports entire family systems. As a community, we collectively have a unique opportunity to drive transformational change in the childcare system in Napa.

Here are a few reasons to support quality early learning experiences for all children in Napa County:

- **Lack of infant childcare:** Napa County has 1 licensed childcare slot for every 10 infants who need care. In fact, as of this month, the City of Napa has only 11 vacant licensed childcare slots dedicated to infants. Le Petit Elephant's new Alta Heights location will add new infant slots to our community.
- **Support the economy:** Le Petit Elephant has a total capacity of 128 children, enabling more than 190+ adults to be part of the workforce. The expansion of childcare slots will enable more parents to stay in the workforce. A lack of childcare, on the other hand, significantly impacts parents' ability to stay in the workforce and leads to parents struggling to meet their work responsibilities.
- **Support early care sites that foster diversity:** Le Petit Elephant has a track record of supporting families of low-income backgrounds who receive financial assistance to pay for childcare through Community Resources for Children, and through Le Petit Elephant's own scholarship efforts. The economies of scale that Le Petit Elephant will be able to capture with an expanded site in Alta Heights will allow for additional support for low to moderate income families, creating a rich diverse environment where all families benefit.

Early education plays a critical role in shaping a child's future. It fosters essential skills, supports emotional and social development, and sets the stage for lifelong learning. Studies have shown that children who attend quality preschools are less likely to get suspended, less likely to skip class, and more likely to graduate high school and attend college. The expansion of this local preschool will allow more children to benefit from a nurturing environment, skilled educators, and a curriculum designed to prepare them for success in school and beyond.

First 5 Napa County is committed to supporting initiatives that prioritize the well-being and development of our youngest residents and their families. We look forward to seeing the positive effects of this expansion and are excited to continue working together to build a brighter future for every child in Napa County.

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker  
Executive Director  
First 5 Napa County