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To: Mayor's Press Office
Subject: Pool report - Queens

Mayor visited a pre-K classroom at LIC YMCA Pre-K in Long Island City, Queens. De Blasio and deputy mayor Richard Buery joined children seated around a carpet and read them the book "Llama llama misses mama," about a llama mother getting her reluctant mama son ready and sending him through his first day at school. (Sample line: "Llama misses mama so. Why did mama llama go?" leading up to a happy ending: "He loves mama, and school too.")

He interjects questions for the kids corresponding with the little llama's activities: "Who brushed their teeth this morning?" ; "The mommy and the son are llamas, but what is the teacher?" "A zebra," the class answers. "A zebra is correct," says the mayor. As the llama meets new friends, BdB asks: "Who met someone new today?" All the students raise their hands. When the llama feels shy, he asks, "Did anyone feel shy this morning?" A few said yes. One kid said, "I didn't!" BdB replied, "I believe you. You do not seem shy." At a sad llama moment, he asks a girl what's happening. "He's crying," she said. BdB asked, "If you saw someone who was crying, would you tell them come over and play with us?" Kids say yes. The llama gets progressively happier with his day in school. Mayor tells the group: "Now llama has friends that he didn't have before, right? Just like you're going to have friends that you didn't have before."

Mayor went to another room and met a group of parents, speaking as teachers translated into Bengali and Spanish. BdB: "It is a very exciting day for your children and a day that I think is going to change their lives for the better."

"My children Chiara and Dante both went to full day pre-K so I was exactly where you are once and I can tell you it was one of the best things that ever happened to my children."

"Your children will now have a foundation for a lifetime of learning."

He encouraged them to tell their friends, neighbors etc who might not be aware of pre-K that they can still sign up, then asked if there were any questions.

Mom Julia Cordova asked if your child is younger and you don't think they're ready for kindergarten, would they be able to do pre-K twice. De Blasio referred the question to a teacher who said that after completing their program, they expect that all the kids will be ready for kindergarten. Another father just offered his appreciation for the program.

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