



## **Pathways LA Child Development Center Opens to Serve Working Families in Metro Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES, November 21, 2023— Before the age of 5, 90% of a child's brain develops, making it vital to provide an environment that fosters growth, confidence, and a strong foundation for life. Pathways LA, a resource and referral provider, marked a momentous occasion as they hosted the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pathways LA Child Development Center in partnership with Los Angeles Metro.

For an organization that has diligently served children in their formative years, aged zero to five, for 45 years, this new facility reaches more families in the community it serves. Nestled in the heart of the vibrant city of Los Angeles and adjacent to Metro headquarters, the two-story, 15,000-square-foot facility has space for 87 children of working parents and Metro employees alike.

“At Pathways LA, children are not just cared for; they are seen, affirmed, and nurtured to help them build confidence. The dedicated childcare providers at the center are committed to imparting vital social-emotional skills, instilling a love for reading and writing, and offering comfort and support on days when the world feels a bit uncertain,” said Tamika Farr, Pathways LA CEO.

The grand opening event was a testament to the power of community and collaboration. Los Angeles Metro, a key partner, shares Pathways LA's vision of providing top-tier childcare options to the community.

“At Metro, we have long recognized that high-quality affordable child care is necessary for our employees,” said Nicole Englund, Metro Chief of Staff. The location is convenient not only for Metro employees, but also for those individuals who transit through Union Station daily. “At Pathways LA, parents and caregivers will be able to not only access child care on site, but they’ll also be able to access the resources of the Pathways LA network, so that if this location doesn’t work for them, they can get help in identifying and securing child care in their area that best suits their needs.”

Former student Irene Sanchez, now a parent of a child at the West Hollywood Preschool, shared her heartwarming experience, highlighting the lasting impact of Pathways LA's care to her seven siblings that spans 25 years and now her two children.

With support from Pathways LA, “I was able to finish my last semester at school, find a position where I can work and feel fulfilled,” said Sanchez. “It’s not easy being a parent. And even though you feel you have a lot of support, sometimes the reality is that you need a little bit of extra help. With Pathways LA I feel supported.”



Through their Family Engagement program, team members work closely with parents and caregivers to promote healthy child development and solid parent-child relationships. They offer various free services, including Parent Education and Training, Play and Learn Groups, Parent Cafes, Family Events, and Systems Navigation.

In addition to representative of Metro and other organizations in the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce played a pivotal role, bringing the ceremonial ribbon and scissors to commemorate this milestone. Distinguished guests, including representatives from Congressman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, Congressman Jimmy Gomez, and Senator Ben Allen, joined in celebrating this remarkable achievement.

“Pathways LA is grateful to its Board of Directors and the dedicated Pathfinders, the name for Pathways LA employees, who share an unwavering commitment to nurturing children, supporting families, empowering providers, and strengthening communities to build brighter futures,” said Farr.

In a world where quality childcare is the cornerstone of a child's future success, Pathways LA Child Development Center offers a safe and enriching environment where young minds can thrive, and parents know they have started their children off on the right path.

To learn more about this facility and the services it provides for families, visit <https://pathwayslatchilddevelopmentcenter.org/> or call 213-427-2710.

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#### About Pathways LA

Pathways LA is committed to the healthy development and school readiness of young children from disadvantaged communities. Driven by data and innovation, our experts support the continuum of care that includes parents, childcare providers, community partners, and policymakers. Learn more at: <https://pathwaysla.org/>

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