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## **Educare launches new era of early learning opportunities for Silicon Valley children**

*Educare California at Silicon Valley, located in San José, is the first Educare school established in California*

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. — Educare California at Silicon Valley celebrated a new era of early learning opportunities for children in California during the new school's ribbon-cutting ceremony held today. Students, parents, community members, partner organizations and early education champions at the local, state and national levels noted the innovative new school's impact on the community's youngest learners and their families — and on the broader educational landscape for California.

"Educare California at Silicon Valley represents a beacon of hope for all children and families," said Jolene Smith, Board Chair of Educare California at Silicon Valley and CEO of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. "It serves as a model for high-quality early learning for children and families in the community, the state, and beyond."

Educare California at Silicon Valley currently serves 168 children ages 0 to 5 (with a future capacity to serve over 200) and their families in a model early learning school. It houses high-quality early learning classrooms, a family resource center, a satellite children's museum, a career academy for high school students, and a professional development institute that will help reach thousands more children in the region.

"We know that the best strategy for addressing the achievement gap is to prevent the gap from ever forming, and the way to do that is through high quality early learning," Jon R. Gundry, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. "This is our number one priority at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with our many partners to make Educare California at Silicon Valley a reality. We look forward to our role in making ECSV an example of what is possible when early education is done well and properly funded."

**(MORE)**

Educare California at Silicon Valley joins a coast-to-coast network of 21 effective early childhood schools. Educare makes certain that financially disadvantaged young children have the best opportunity for success in life. Educare's comprehensive program incorporates what science says young children need to flourish. Rigorous research shows that Educare works: the majority of its students enter kindergarten with the school readiness skills they need to succeed.

"We are thrilled to have Educare California at Silicon Valley join our network," said Portia Kennel, senior advisor, Buffett Early Childhood Fund, and founding executive director, Educare Learning Network. "Not only will the school serve the children and families in this community, but it will also join a movement to increase access to high-quality early childhood education across the country."

Decades of research shows that low-income children frequently start school far behind their higher-income peers, and often fail to catch up. High-quality early childhood experiences have been proven to level the playing field for low-income children and help them succeed in school and in life.

"It's because of the strong commitment of the public and private partners that we are here today celebrating the opening of Educare California at Silicon Valley," said Carol Larson, President and CEO of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. "This Educare school represents the city and county's steadfast efforts to ensure that our youngest children grow-up healthy, excited about learning, and ready for kindergarten. Along with serving children, Educare will offer professional development to teachers in other early learning programs, bringing quality education to children across the region."

Educare California at Silicon Valley's family resource center will support the needs of families in the Santee neighborhood through parenting skills classes and workshops, child development information, referrals to services such as health insurance information, preventive health care, a book lending program, and much more.

Educare California at Silicon Valley is located at 1399 Santee Drive in San José. Learn more at [www.educareSV.org](http://www.educareSV.org). Follow Educare California at Silicon Valley on Twitter ([@educareSV](https://twitter.com/educareSV)). Catch up on social media posts about the event by following [#EducareSV](https://twitter.com/educareSV).

A 501(c)(3) organization, Educare California at Silicon Valley was formed by a robust public-private partnership. Educare partner organizations include:

- Adobe
- AT&T
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Children's Discovery Museum of San José
- Cisco
- De Anza College
- East Side Union High School District
- Educare Learning Network
- First 5 California
- FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
- Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative
- Franklin-McKinley School District
- The Health Trust
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

- The Heising-Simons Foundation
- George Kaiser Family Foundation
- The Opportunity Fund
- Ounce of Prevention Fund
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Perkins Coie
- Polaris Associates
- San José Public Library
- Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
- Silicon Valley Bank
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Sugimura Finney Architects
- Verizon
- US Bank
- Wazrmenhoven Family Foundation

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