

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Barbara Bishop

BBPR, Inc. 310-656-4668

**During Week of the Young Child April 10-16) Connections For Children Provides
10 Tips for Selecting A High Quality Child Care Facility**

SANTA MONICA – We all know the early learning years have a critical impact on the future learning and life success for our children. That is why choosing a high quality child care facility is one of the most important decisions a working parent can make for their child. During the Week of the Young Child, April 10 – 16, Santa Monica-based child care resource and referral agency Connections For Children is offering the following:

Ten Tips for Selecting A High Quality Child Care Facility

1. Make a first visit to the program without your child to see if it feels clean and safe, cheerful and interesting but not over-stimulating, and allows adequate play space. Are you comfortable with all you see?
2. Ask the program for references including their license and be sure to check them out. Make a call to Community Care Licensing ([310-337-4333](tel:310-337-4333)) or visit the website (<https://secure.dss.ca.gov/CareFacilitySearch/>) to check on prior complaints.
3. Ask if the teachers are knowledgeable about child development stages, trained in early childhood education, and whether they have opportunities for continued learning.
4. Observe the ratios of children to adults – licensing sets basic standards, but quality child care programs set a higher bar. And notice how the children and adults interact, as well as how the children interact with each other.
5. Look for programs with open door policies that welcome your visits, participation and input.
6. What are the expectations and rules for children's behavior? Do they match yours? Do the educators use positive language when talking to children and positive guidance rather than punitive discipline?
7. Do the teachers and caregivers appear to enjoy being with children – do they hug, rock, cuddle, talk, sing, and read with the children?
8. Do the director and educators respect diversity, including your family's values and culture? Is the program fully inclusive and accessible for all children? Do they offer information on how to support your child's learning at home?
9. Notice how the director and educators share information with parents – and how they listen to what parents want to share with them – are there means for ongoing, mutual communication about how your child is doing and what your child needs?
10. If you feel comfortable with all of the above, set a time to visit with your child so you can again observe and see your child's reactions. If the children seem happy, secure, and stimulated, it's likely your child will be eager to go there each day.

For more information or to obtain assistance finding child care, visit <http://www.connectionsforchildren.org> or call (310) 452-3325