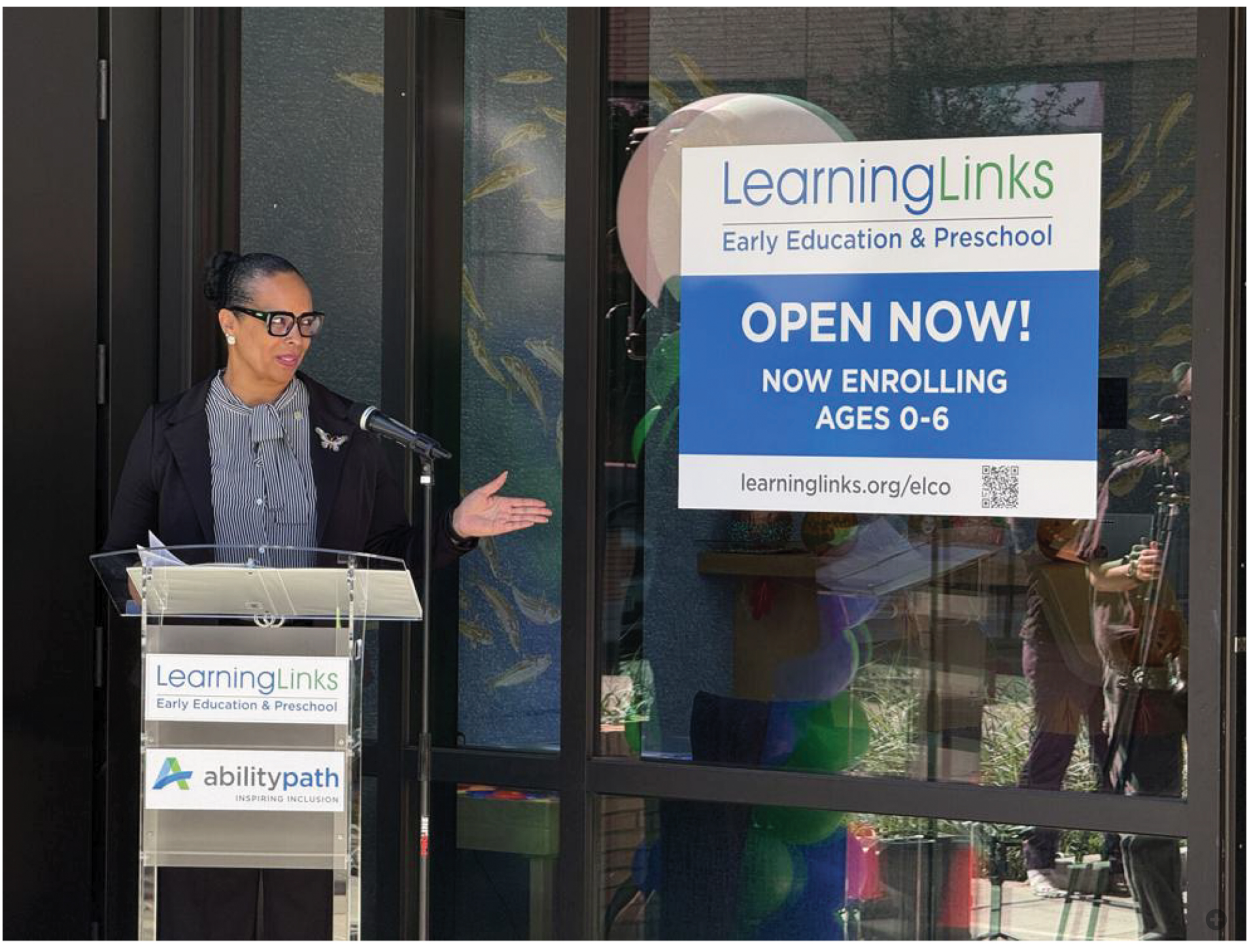
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Learning Links opens new inclusive preschool at Redwood City's Elco Yards

By Ana Mata, Daily Journal staff
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The opening of a new early childhood education center at Elco Yards in Redwood City was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, welcoming 74 new childcare spots for children of all abilities.

The preschool, Learning Links, caters to children of all developmental abilities and needs and offers care to families at a discounted rate through a state-subsidized program. The new inclusive preschool serves infants, toddlers, preschools and transitional kindergarten students.

New childcare spaces support an ongoing effort at both the city and county level, including one led by San Mateo County supervisors Jackie Speier and Lisa Gauthier, whose district represents Redwood City.

"As a mother and grandmother, I know firsthand how important it is for families to have the support they need," Gauthier said. "I also know that building a strong community means investing in our next generations. That is what I see here at Learning Links."

Located at 200 Lathrop St. in Redwood City, Learning Links serves children 0 to 6 years old through full-time, part-time, drop-in and extended care options. A low teacher-to-child ratio allows for strong relationships between staff and children, and the physical space was developed with inclusion in mind.

"Every child, regardless of their talents and abilities, they all have a right to have that great beginning in life, and we owe it to them," Speier said.

Carol Miller, executive director of Learning Links, shared how the educational center's mission is to support and challenge every child according to their individual needs.