



A fresh start for First 5

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Photos by DIANNE AVERY/Acorn Newspapers

SPACE TO LEARN—Above, Camarillo 2-year-old Isabella Bruce and teacher Jhoelle Aspuria explore a model of a bee during First 5 Ventura County’s ribbon-cutting Oct. 3 to greet community members and discuss early childhood program offerings at the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning in Camarillo. At right, teacher Claudia Cazares examines rocks with 2-year-old Grady Margetin of Camarillo. Below, the ribbon is cut for the preschool at Pleasant Valley School of Engineering and Arts. Earlier this year, First 5 decided to revamp its Neighborhood for Learning program across the county because much of its funding—generated from the Proposition 10 tobacco tax—had dwindled due to fewer smokers in the state. Camarillo-based Interface Children and Family Services stepped in to help retain as many school sites as possible. The Camarillo location is one of 13 similar sites that offer classes and resources for families with children under 5.



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