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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Mexico Early Learning Academy to open one of the largest child care centers in state with ECECD support

Ribbon cutting for new location on West Central Ave. in ABQ to be held Friday, Oct. 27th at 10 a.m.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – On Friday, October 27th [New Mexico Early Learning Academy](#) will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their third location, which will serve families on Albuquerque's West Side. The new location will serve up to 224 children, which places it in the top three centers by licensed capacity in the state. The center will create new capacity for 119 infants and toddlers, the ages at which many families find it most difficult to find care.

The new center is made possible by the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department's (ECECD) Child Care Supply Building Grant, which was [created in 2022](#) to improve New Mexico families' access to child care in underserved areas. The grant is currently projected to create child care capacity for an additional 2,000 children living in child care deserts across New Mexico.

WHAT: Ribbon cutting for New Mexico Early Learning Academy location on West Central Ave.

WHEN: Friday, October 27th from 10 - 11 a.m.

WHERE:

New Mexico Early Learning Academy

5201 Central Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM, 87105

WHO:

- **Crystal Tapia-Romero**, *founder of New Mexico Early Learning Academy*
- **Michael Padilla**, *New Mexico State Senator – District 14*
- **Mo Maestas**, *New Mexico State Senator – District 16*
- **Louie Sanchez**, *Albuquerque City Councilor – District 1*
- **Elizabeth Groginsky**, *ECECD Cabinet Secretary*

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Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham launched the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) in 2020, making New Mexico among the first states to consolidate all early childhood programs and services under a single cabinet-level agency. Under this administration, ECECD has led the nation by expanding access to free New Mexico PreK, overseeing the largest investment in early childhood infrastructure in state history, and implementing cost-free child care for a majority of New Mexico families. Learn more about how ECECD supports children, families, and the early childhood professionals that serve our communities at nmececd.org. On Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as [@NewMexicoECECD](https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoECECD).