

## Santa Barbara News Press

# Opinion: Voice from Santa Barbara - Survey seeks data on day-care needs

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The April 16 News-Press article on the difficulties parents face in finding high-quality child care -- "Waiting lists, high cost give parents fits in day-care selection" -- couldn't be more timely.

Although child-care supply has never kept pace with need, the problem seems to have reached a crisis point for parents working in downtown Santa Barbara, and local business is doing something about it.

The Downtown Employer Child Care Partnership, of which I am a member, is a group of employers that has come together to tackle this challenge. With the support of the county (which will survey all its employees) and First 5 Santa Barbara County, the partnership is starting with an employee child-care survey to get hard data about the issue so we are informed as we move forward.

Local businesses are being asked to sign up to participate in the survey, which goes out electronically through each employer to their employees. English and Spanish hard copies also are available.

Employers can contact First 5 at 884-8063 to sign up, but please hurry -- the deadline is Friday.

If you are an employer, please join us. If you are an employee, pass the word on to your employer.

We need to hear from you.

Roger L. Horton is a member of the Santa Barbara City Council.