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**Beverly Hills Public Library and L.A. Parent Magazine Introduce
Panel Discussion with Parenting Experts on August 31**
*First Program of New Speaker Series Discusses Children's Social and
Emotional Connections*



Pictured left to right: Dawn Kurtz, Ph.D., LAUP, Dr. Pat Levitt, Ph.D., Children's Hospital Los Angeles and University of Southern California, Roma Khetarpal, award-winner author.

Beverly Hills, Calif. - Beverly Hills Public Library and L.A. Parent Magazine will launch a new speaker series program entitled: *Connections: Conversations with Parenting Experts*, on Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

This free program will provide an evening of conversation and learning with three panel experts. Guest speakers will focus on children's earliest social and emotional connections, touching on current research into the critical importance of a child's first five years. Parents will also gain insight into how their earliest interactions with their child set the foundation for the child's future learning, and their relationships with others and the world around them.

The three panel experts are Dr. Pat Levitt, Ph.D., author Roma Khetarpal and Dr. Dawn A. Kurtz, Ph.D.

Dr. Pat Levitt, Ph.D., is Simms/Mann Chair in Developmental Neurogenetics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. His research focuses on brain development and social-emotional behavior, and the importance of early parent-child communication such as reading, singing and playing.

Roma Khetarpal is the author of the award-winning book "The Perfect Parent," and a parent coach and speaker on the topic of "mindful parenting." She will discuss how important it is for parents to act as an anchor of safety and comfort for their children, and how providing a secure base for exploration allows children to take the lead in learning.

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Dr. Dawn A. Kurtz, Ph.D., has worked in the children development and early childhood education fields for more than 15 years. As Chief Program Officer for Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), she will discuss how to find the best preschool for your child and what questions to ask.

Admission is free, although we ask that you register at www.laparent.com/speaker-series
For more information on all events at the Beverly Hills Public Library, go to www.beverlyhills.org/bhpl or call (310) 288-2211.

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