

Your Vote Counts Nov. 7

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BUSINESS

thornton quarterly A Child's Touch Daycare center in unique setting

Let your imagination soar to a magical daycare setting and you'll find yourself at A Child's Touch in Thornton. It's an imaginative place where children can visit a make-believe grocery store, a nature area with a pond and science cabin, or play in an inventor's house.

This Christian daycare center focuses on creating a fun environment for children to learn. The idea for these play centers is to be able to take kids on mini-field trips without ever leaving the center. It gives children a change of scenery and keeps their interest piqued to learning as they move to different environments. The fun doesn't stop when kids are in regular classrooms.

There is an art room with glow-in-the-dark animals, a science lab with snakes, a castle classroom with a library, puppets and a computer center.

In the role-playing room, kids learn by playing. What's unique is that the theme of the room changes every few weeks. Kids visit the 911 emergency room as a firefighter one day, then return another day to learn about space or the ocean.

"Our goal is to create an environment where children have fun," said owner Mike Grillo, "because we believe learning takes place when kids enjoy themselves." Mike Grillo operates the childcare center with his wife, Debi; they both have backgrounds in education.

"We really want to create a solid foundation with children that learning is fun," said Grillo. "If children enjoy learning, they will continue to want to learn as they grow older. We want kids to be excited to go to school."

At A Child's Touch, a foundation is not only set with learning but Christian beliefs are also taught. Children participate in daily Bible study activities and

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Mike Grillo
A Child's Touch owner



Children at A Child's Touch daycare enjoy more than an acre of grounds to play on with a mini soccer field, nature area and an inventor's house. Here they play and learn in the science cabin.

pray before meals. The center is not affiliated with any one denomination, but focuses on Christian, Bible-based teachings.

Another unique facet of the daycare center is the teacher appreciation efforts for the 46 staff members. Teachers are paid higher wages - there are a number of male preschool teachers at the school - and are rewarded for creative teaching techniques. Each year a teacher of the year is chosen and sent on a paid family vacation to places such as Orlando and San Diego as an award.

A Child's Touch has been providing daycare service for 23 years. It was relocated to Thornton 11 years ago.

The center accepts children starting at one year and they teach toddlers and preschool-age children. The center also offers a full-day kindergarten program and before- and after-school care for school children up to age 12 for some local elementary schools.

The cost for a child to attend the school falls in the mid-range between other local centers, but there is a waiting list for classroom slots. A Child's Touch Christian Daycare is located at 9141 Poze Blvd. in Thornton.

For a tour or more information, call (303) 286-8460 or visit their Web site at www.achildstouch.com.

childcare update