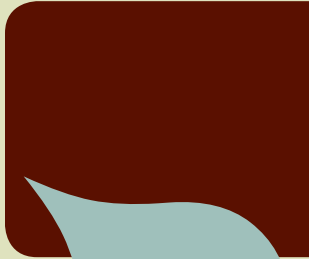




An excellent learning environment for Ritenour's youngest students



Ritenour School for
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Ritenour
School District
Educational Excellence Since 1867

Our School

The Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education was designed as a comprehensive resource for all families living in the district. The nearly 28,000-square-foot facility features 14 classrooms where preschoolers, including those with special education needs,

receive classroom instruction and participate in guided play. The school has a full-service kitchen to provide healthy meals each day.

At our school, you'll also find the Ritenour Parents As Teachers classroom and developmental screening rooms. A children's

lending library is located in the building. The school hosts community events and activities, including parent/child interaction activities. When needed, our early childhood experts can provide families with referrals to other community agencies and services.

What We Believe

We believe children are capable and unique learners who each deserve equal access to a high-quality early childhood education. We believe early childhood education is the responsibility of the school, family and community and we are passionate advocates for children and families.

We believe learning is a developmental process that happens as children make sense of their environments and lives. Our educators understand child development and guide young students through enriching activities and discussions that help them learn and grow.

We believe learning happens through communication, collaboration and reflection with peers and teachers. We view our

classrooms as mini-societies, diverse communities of learners engaged in hands-on activities, accountable talk and reflection.

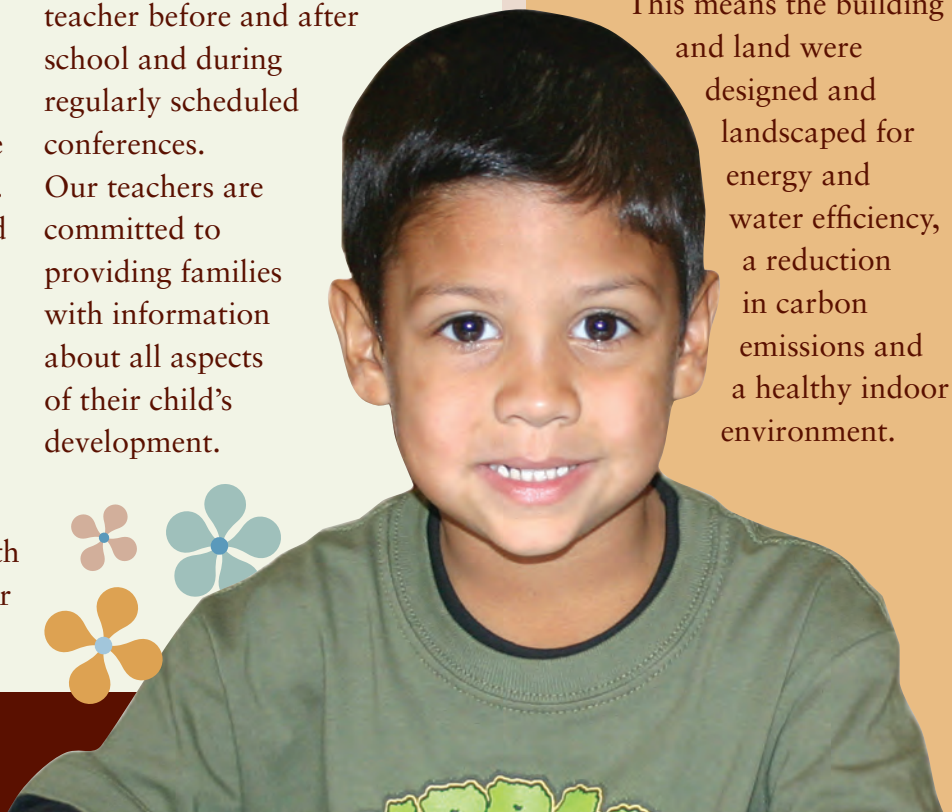
We believe in collaborating with families. Parents are an important part of our community and are encouraged to talk with their child's teacher before and after school and during regularly scheduled conferences.

Our teachers are committed to providing families with information about all aspects of their child's development.

It's Easy Being Green

We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and ensuring a healthy learning environment for our students. The Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education was designed and built to meet the strict standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification.

This means the building and land were designed and landscaped for energy and water efficiency, a reduction in carbon emissions and a healthy indoor environment.



green school /grEn skül / n. — a school building or facility that creates a healthy environment conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money.

Healthy Air Quality

The healthy interior environment is helped with an advanced outdoor air delivery system. When fresh air is needed, a dedicated system of sensors, ductwork and fans brings this air where it is needed most, and removes the unhealthy air to the outside. Better indoor air quality means healthier kids and with fewer respiratory and circulatory conditions.

Highly Reflective Roof

The building's many roof surfaces reflect the sunlight, promoting a cooler exterior and interior environment, and ultimately reducing the cost of cooling the building during the summer months.

Acoustics

Keeping noise levels to a minimum between classrooms and adjacent areas facilitates learning. Interior and exterior walls, windows, doors and ceilings are constructed of materials that far exceed industry standards for acoustics.

HVAC and Lighting

The school's state-of-the-art HVAC system is designed to achieve the highest levels of energy efficiency, with a similar reduction in its carbon footprint by using less fuel over time. The lighting technology is an advanced system resulting in low electrical demand and low heat gain further reducing the cooling demands of the building.



Water Efficiency

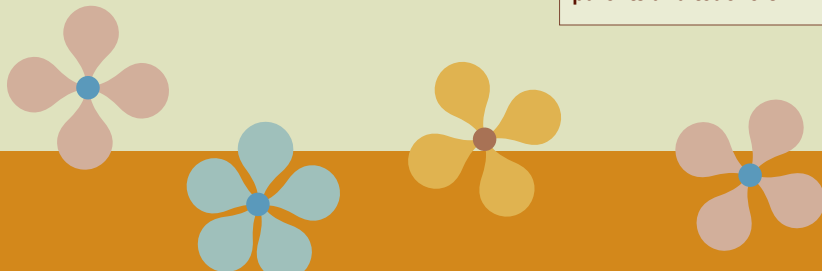
Bathrooms and kitchens are outfitted with low flow water faucets, toilets and urinals. These efforts drastically conserve our precious water resources.

Alcoves

Each hallway has special alcoves, inviting areas for reading books, working on special projects or visiting with parents and teachers.

Courtyard

The school's interior courtyard is a perfect spot for young students to explore nature. The courtyard features natural plantings that entice butterflies and introduce preschoolers to the natural environment. The courtyard is completely surrounded by windows, allowing additional light into the school's main hallway.





Natural Light

Ample windows in hallways and classrooms allow lots of natural light inside the school. Natural light reduces energy costs and has been found to improve student concentration and performance. Each classroom has windows that are just the right size for curious preschoolers to see what's outside. The exterior includes colored glass blocks to allow natural light into the school and shine fun colors on the inside walls.




Rain Gardens

Beautiful rain gardens with native plants are built around the school to help absorb rainwater runoff from rooftops, sidewalks and the parking lot. The gardens reduce the amount of polluted runoff contributed to local rivers, creeks and municipal storm water systems.

Insulation

To reduce heating and cooling costs, the building features high efficiency Low-E windows and state-of-the-art insulation. Though the windows allow natural light into to the building, they filter solar heat from entering the building and provide high insulation values.



Playground and Multipurpose Room

Built on a safe surface made out of recycled tires, the playground encourages active play. A multipurpose room can be used for an active play space when the weather prevents students from going outside.

Classroom Controls

Each classroom is outfitted with sensing lights that automatically turn off when no one is in the room, cutting down on energy costs. Students are more productive and alert when their classroom is at a comfortable temperature, so each classroom has its own thermostats to control the room's highly efficient heating and cooling system. Advanced lighting controls allow users to choose from many lighting schemes to suit the particular needs of the classroom at any one time.

Recycling

We've taken great care to use building material with the highest recycled content we could find to do our part in reducing the need for virgin natural resources. During construction, the waste was separated off site and usable material shipped to manufacturers who start the process all over again. The school is also part of a district wide recycling program offering easy recycling of paper, cardboard, glass and plastics.

Project Room

Adjacent to the courtyard, the project room is designed especially for young learners to create and imagine. This area is used for a variety of both large and small group projects including art and science.

Interior Design

Sustainable furnishings and decor were selected to create a calm and soothing environmental for focused learning. Because our paints, carpet, glues and furnishings drastically reduce the emission of harmful volatile organic compounds, the building has very good indoor air quality and few harmful emissions.



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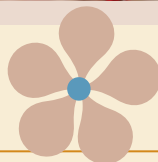


The Ritenour Advantage

At the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education, the growth and development of the children we serve is at the forefront of everything we do. We are committed to meeting the highest standards in early childhood education, from employing the most caring and capable staff to constructing a state-of-the-art facility designed with learning in mind.

- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, our school meets all 10 of this national organization's stringent early childhood program standards.
- All of our teachers are college-educated and certified to teach early childhood education.
- Our new school is a safe and healthy environment that sparks curiosity, encourages responsibility and fosters learning. The school meets some of the highest standards of green, sustainable construction.

What We Teach



Teachers at the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education employ the Project Construct Curriculum. Project Construct, a state-approved curriculum, is an approach to learning rooted in the belief that children learn through physical and social play and interaction with the environment.

Our teachers guide children to build relationships of mutual trust and respect; consider the perspective of others; be curious, confident and creative; use language for a variety

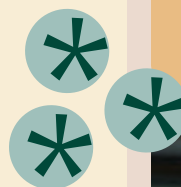
of reasons; know personal information; negotiate and apply rules; represent ideas and feelings through pretend play, movement, music, art and construction; develop motor skills; and develop healthy living practices.

Our curriculum emphasizes early reading skills, math readiness, social skills and artistic expression. We emphasize hands-on learning to encourage exploration and problem-solving.

How We Teach

Children experience learning by interacting in groups of peers and through individual instruction. Teachers provide opportunities for purposeful play, they encourage children to ask questions and experiment and plan activities to nurture budding critical-thinking skills.

At the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education, we believe a child's environment affects learning. Consistent with the Reggio Approach to Learning, the staff believe the school environment acts like a third teacher. Every aspect of the building's innovative design is related to our goal of fostering learners who are responsible, curious and self-aware.



Vision: The Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education, together with families and the community, provides a safe, supportive environment in which young children are empowered to become productive citizens and life-long learners.

Mission: We are committed to promoting the growth and development of the whole child by nurturing and encouraging natural curiosity and positive self-awareness by developing the communication, academic, motor and social skills necessary to achieve life-long goals.

Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



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