



Brady Ruziscka, Maggie Rohrs and Jacob Rohrs enjoy the ball pit at the Children's Discovery Center open house in Waterville.



The castle in the middle of the Children's Discovery Center takes children back to a time of princes and princesses while allowing them to act out a play on the small stage or climb plastic rocks to enter the fortress.

## Newest Children's Discovery Center Offers Child Care In A Creative Environment



The Children's Discovery Center on Dutch Road in Waterville recently opened its doors to the community with a ribbon-cutting. Participating in the event are (from left) John Schinharl, Fifth Third Bank; Robert Siebenaller, SSOE, Inc.; Kevin Smith, Bostleman Corporation; Waterville Mayor Chuck Peyton; Lois Mitten-Rosenberry, owner of Children's Discovery Center; Sara Harris, special projects coordinator; Jessica DeViney, Perrysburg center administrator; and Lisa Hornyak, Waterville center administrator.

MIRROR PHOTOS BY MELISSA GARRETT



Children's Discovery Center in Waterville offers children the opportunity to learn about faraway places such as Africa through music and hands-on activities.

**BY MELISSA GARRETT**  
MIRROR REPORTER

Children's Discovery Center recently opened its doors for an open house and carnival at its newest location on Dutch Road in Waterville.

Waterville is the seventh Toledo-area location for the locally owned and nationally recognized childcare provider.

Waterville administrator Lisa Hornyak said the facility serves children age 6 weeks to 10 years old from 6:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hornyak said the Christian-based learning center that can handle up to 180 children.

The curriculum for the center is based on the Reggio Emilia approach to learning, which is based on the belief that each child is strong, powerful, competent, capable, social and full of potential.

Each child's special qualities are recognized and nurtured and he or she is encouraged to discover his or her "100 languages of learning" through art, dance, building, writing, dramatic play, sculpting and more.

The Reggio Emilia style of learning also emphasizes the importance of the environment, which is considered another teacher to the children.

The large windows and creative layout of the Children's Discovery Center in Waterville meets the criteria.

Upon entering the center, one notices the colors, textures and sounds that create a unique environment.

There is a castle with slides and a miniature stage in the center room of the building enhanced by a mural painted on the wall, an open air market where children can practice purchasing skills and a ball pit where gross motor skills can be developed.

The floor around the castle is made of a special cushioning material to add to the children's safety.

The rooms around the outside of the building are divided into different age groups. There are appropriate materials in the rooms according to the age of the children.

"We offer age-appropriate practices for children that relate to the interests of the children," Hornyak said. "Beyond what the children learn every day, we also offer cooking projects, a music teacher, a Spanish teacher and chapel or age-appropriate Bible study once a week."

The classrooms include libraries, play cafe or kitchen areas, global village learning centers such as an African safari with music and instruments to play, computers and displays of children's work, just to name a few.

There is also an "atelier" or art studio where artistic expression is encouraged through all types of art projects.

Children have the oppor-

tunity to do larger projects from three weeks to three months about topics of interest such as animals or insects.

Children's Discovery Center provides hot lunches and two snacks to the children and the convenience of before- and after-school care with transportation to and from area schools.

The center has a bus to transport children to and from Whitehouse and Monclova Primary schools, and Waterville Primary students ride on the Anthony Wayne School District's yellow buses.

Children's Discovery Center owner and founder Lois Mitten-Rosenberry said Waterville was chosen for the newest site because several Waterville and Whitehouse parents expressed an interest in having the program available in the community.

"We're pleased to have the opportunity to provide the Waterville area children with a strong foundation for learning where parents feel secure leaving their children in our care and where children will grow and mature under the watchful eyes of our dedicated child care professionals," she said.

The center is located at 8011 Dutch Rd. off of US 24 at the intersection of Dutch and Waterville-Monclova Roads.

Enrollment is currently under way. Anyone interested in Children's Discovery Center may contact Hornyak at (419) 878-8689.



The newest Toledo-area Children's Discovery Center facility is located at 8011 Dutch Rd. in Waterville at the intersection of Waterville-Monclova Road.