

ASSOCIATION FOR  
**LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS**

**CHICAGO**

Learning**SCAPES** 2023

**RDg..**  
PLANNING • DESIGN



# The Tapestry of Early Childhood Education

Interweaving Children, Teachers, and Community

# Learning Objectives

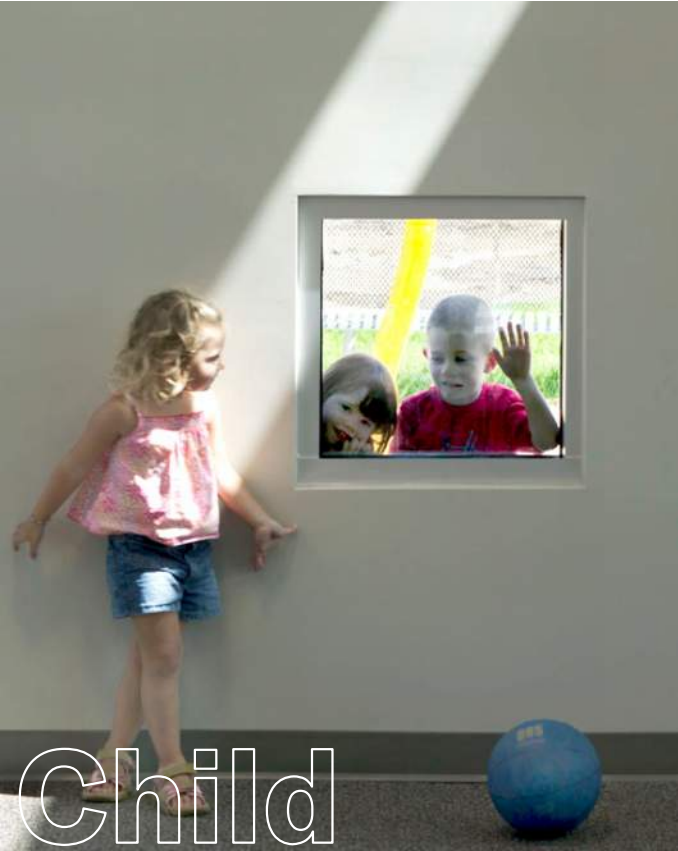
- Describe the benefits of close connection between community and early childhood education centers.
- Identify design strategies used to facilitate exploration and learning throughout the facility not solely in the designated classroom spaces.
- Recognize the impact the physical environment can have on the mental health and overall well-being of children, teachers, and families.
- Summarize the benefits of designing spaces for the staff and parents/guardians in addition to designing for the children.





# Building Blocks

Early Care and Education is the foundation on which successful lives and communities are built



Child



Parent



Teacher

# COMMUNITY



# Outside the Classroom

Designing environments with subtle reminders that the world of a child is different.





# Outside the Classroom



# Supporting Wellness

Physical environments offer opportunities to support mental and physical well-being of children, teachers, and families







# Views & Daylight





Views & Daylight



# Grown Up Spaces

Spaces dedicated to adult use  
– staff, families, community  
members – improve overall  
connection and efficacy





# Supporting Families





# Supporting Families





“To teach well, you  
have to be well.”

*Dr. Kathleen Gallagher*

# Designing to Support Staff

- Supervision of room / children
  - Transparency
  - Open plan, no hidden corners
- Flexibility & Adaptability
- Scale
- Social connections
  - Between paired classrooms
  - Within classroom neighborhood
- Shared services





Supporting Staff







# Supporting Staff



# Weaving Together

- Groups of 4 - 5
- Cardboard and Twine “Loom”
- Ribbon
- Paracord
- Pipe Cleaners
- Corrugated Strips
- Keyword Stickers





# Case Studies

## Educare Springfield - Springfield, Massachusetts

- Community integration through training spaces and parent resources

## Porter-Leath Early Childhood Academy Orange Mound

- Memphis, Tennessee

- Collaboration with University of Memphis interweaving early learning and higher education

## Clifton Community Campus - Clifton, Colorado

- Master plan for campus including community green space and public library
- Early Childhood Education Center
- Mesa County Early Childhood Training and Development Center
- Clifton Community Center

# Educare Springfield

Springfield, Massachusetts

## Building Metrics:

- Completion date: November 2019
- 25,820 square feet
- 12 classrooms serving 141 Children
- Conference Room
- Staff Workroom & Lounge
- Training Rooms
- Parent Resource Room







EDUCARE  
SPRINGFIELD

100

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The  
Mary E. Walachy  
Learning and Professional  
Development Center

# Gathering

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# Parent Resource



# Staff Lounge & Workroom



# Conference Room





# Core Connections



# Active Intersection



# Porter-Leath Early Childhood Academy

## Orange Mound

Memphis, Tennessee

### Building Metrics:

- Completion date: December 2021
- 38,000 square feet
- 18 classrooms serving 288 Children
- Observation Rooms
- University and Hoteling Offices
- Parent Resource Space
- Conference Rooms
- Shares Campus with RedZone
- Adjacent to Melrose High School











Entry

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# Gathering

Lynne's Room



# Multipurpose



Training



Training

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# Parent Resource





# Conference Observation



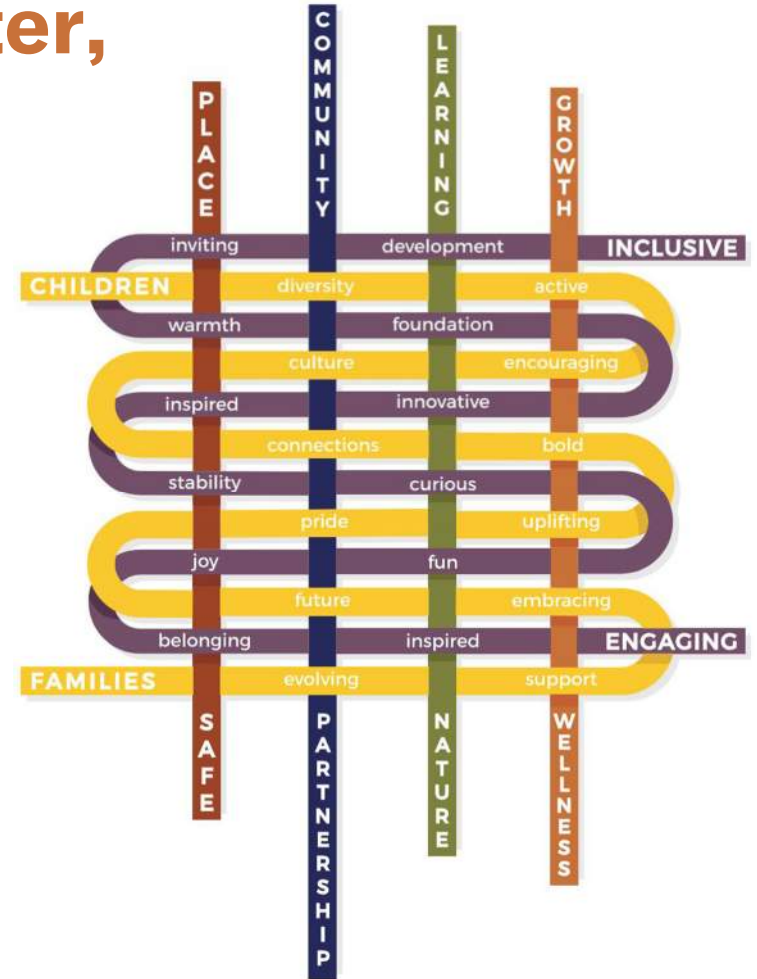


# Mesa County Early Childhood Center, Training & Development Center, & Community Hall

Clifton, Colorado

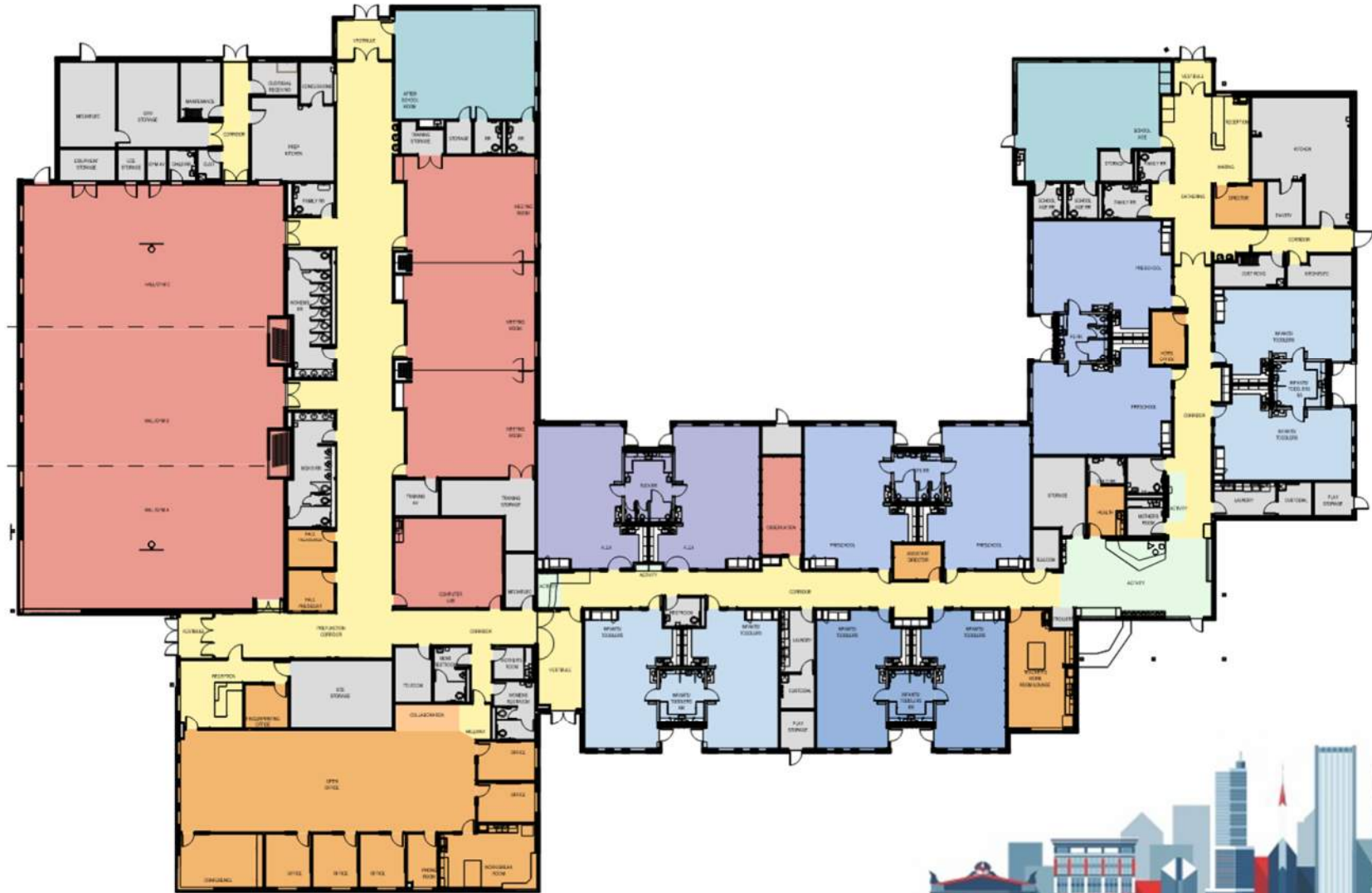
## Building Metrics:

- Completion date: Spring 2024
- Clifton Campus
  - Public Library
  - Common Green Space with Pavilion
  - ECEC, Training Center, & Community Hall
- Early Childhood Education Center: 20,720 square feet
  - 12 classrooms serving 202 Children
  - Observation Spaces
  - School Age Classroom
- Training Center and Community Hall: 24,570 square feet
  - High School Sized Gymnasium
  - Meeting Rooms
  - After School Room
  - Training and Development Center



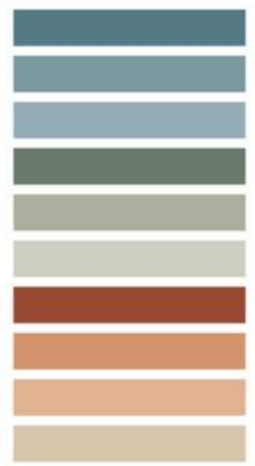


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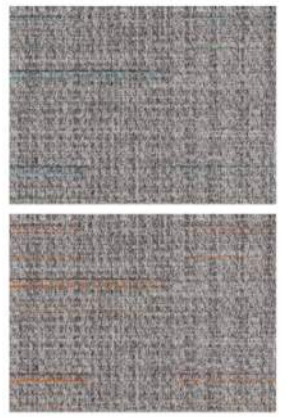


INDIVIDUALITY



COLOR

PARTNERSHIP



TEXTURE

COMMUNITY



CONNECTION



MESA  
COUNTY  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION CENTER



# Gathering



# Active Intersection





# Classroom Connections

# CLIFTON COMMUNITY CENTER

MESA COUNTY  
TRAINING CENTER

# Active Intersection



# Training & Development



# Computer Lab & Meeting Rooms

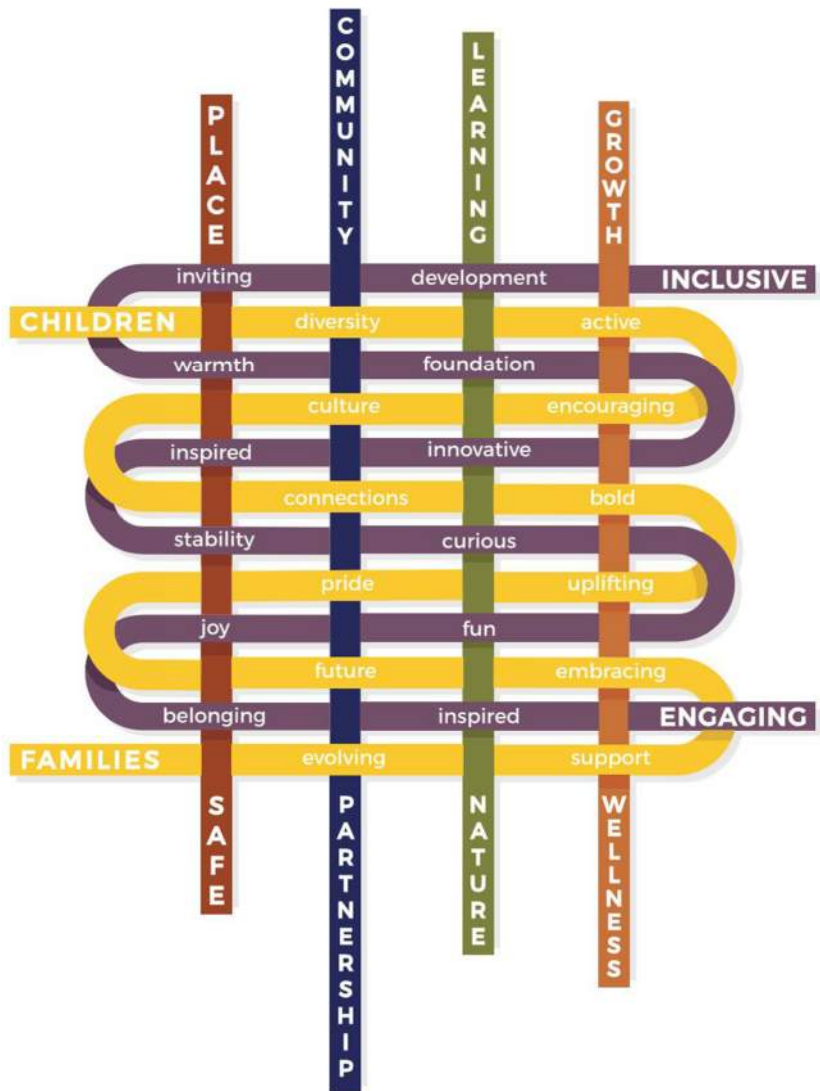




Community Event Space

# Tapestry

# Threads



- Building Blocks
- Outside the Classroom
- Supporting Wellness
- Grown Up Spaces



**Questions?**





THANK YOU!