

Kids' Cottage offers new place to learn and play

By Molly Albertson
Cape Gazette staff

A huge indoor playground surrounded by nine colorful facades sets the scene at Kids' Cottage, where bright murals bring the indoors alive with puffy clouds, grass and trees, ocean scenes and other wonders.

The new center for learning and playing in Rehoboth is located on Wolfe Neck Road, just east of Route 1 at the intersection of Route 24.

Co-owner Lori Schell said two

vacations generated the idea for the business.

"I was inspired by Disney World," Schell said, "and a trip to Hawaii." When she was traveling, she found an hourly daycare center to drop off kids for a few hours while parents shop, run errands or just enjoy some down time.

Business partner and co-owner Taryn Burriss brought to the table the concept of a preschool and learning center.

"It just kept accumulating and

growing until it became what it is," she said.

Last November construction began on the two-story building with eight bathrooms, skylights, and an office suite.

This building is specialized for tykes, down to the tiniest detail.

Cameras installed in every room and in the parking lot watch to ensure safety.

Recycled rubber lines the floor of the indoor play area both inside and out to cushion falls and a tiny toilet in the bathroom closest to the 2-year-old room encourages potty training.

Classrooms that face a kid-friendly courtyard are cleverly disguised as a schoolhouse, sandcastle, tree house, kite shop, candy store, and other intriguing locales.

Inside the exciting facades there is a whole lot of learning going on. Well-educated, experienced teachers lead prekindergarten and preschool classes in the mornings.

For preschool, Kids' Cottage accepts children ages 2 through 5.

But there's more happening in that little village than preschool. Parents can drop off their children for a few hours to play under close supervision or even arrange to have them bussed directly from school.

The after-school program is structured with time for homework, free play and a scheduled activity or project.



Molly Albertson photos

Like something out of the Willy Wonka movie, a tiny village surrounds an indoor play area for children at Kids' Cottage in Rehoboth.

A media room boasts three flat-screen TVs that allow children to play educational video games, sing karaoke or watch videos. Four computers are online to help kids write papers, do homework or surf the web.

Climb the staircase disguised as a tree trunk, up into the reading loft, which uses paint to create the interior of the coolest clubhouse a kid could imagine. There they can read books or be read to by a supervisor.

Next door is an arcade room for older children, with air hockey, arcade games and foosball.

In an upstairs wing there is space for private birthday parties, with three packages to choose from that include party favors, gift bags, and personalized decorations.

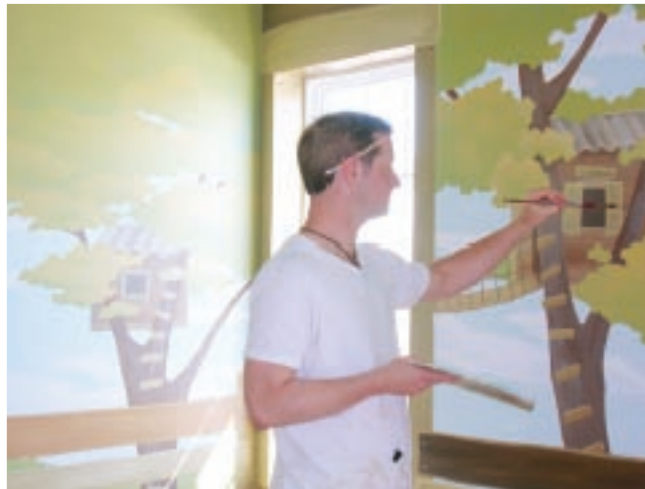
With an emphasis on learning, Kids' Cottage also offers tutoring opportunities such as individual, group or after-school help.

Parents' night out is a movie night for children on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Kids see a movie and get popcorn and a drink.

PK Play provides space for parents to play with their children or watch them play from the upstairs observation deck and café, where they can find complimentary coffee and light snacks.

Kids' Cottage offers a safe and dazzling space for adults and children to play and learn in Rehoboth Beach.

For more information and bios on all the teachers, check out kidscottage.com or call 644-7690.



Damon Pla finishes murals in the upstairs reading loft, designed and decorated like the inside of a tree house.

Kids' Cottage
Drop-In Play & Learning Center

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