

*Where  
imagination  
is always  
in bloom.*



  
**Timberline**  
learning center

*Bloom*

*grow*

*imagine*

*create*





## welcome message

Timberline Learning Center offers our community's children an educational environment that knows no boundaries—a place where their imaginations bloom.

## journey

Timberline Learning Center's evolution began in 2007 when the Town of Breckenridge recognized the need for additional early learning options for the community's families/children.

Matthew Stais Architects was hired to design an innovative and appealing building that incorporates "green" technologies, bright colors and playful rooflines, with an understanding and appreciation for the local climate. The southern exposure provides an abundance of natural light in the classrooms and allows for playground utilization year round.

Early 2008 brought with it the selection of an executive director, board of directors, and staff who together will work to make the town's dream for an additional early learning facility a reality. The Center will open its doors to local families during the summer of 2008.

## facts

Timberline Learning Center serves over 65 families and is open to all children ages 6 weeks to 5 years (who are not yet attending kindergarten).

The Center is open year round, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and will provide care on most major holidays. Our classrooms are arranged according to age, and we operate with optimal student-to-teacher ratios—well above state licensing requirements.



thoughts



**Timberline Learning Center** was created to offer all local families—regardless of socio-economic standing—a place where their children can thrive. The Center authentically reflects the community in which it stands—one abundant in natural splendor, endless recreational possibilities, and a strong belief in environmental conservation. The members of this community are dedicated to their neighbors, boundlessly committed to causes that inspire and preserve, and devoted to the creative arts. To best represent these ideals and to share them with our children, creators of the Timberline Learning Center are inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to Early Childhood Education.

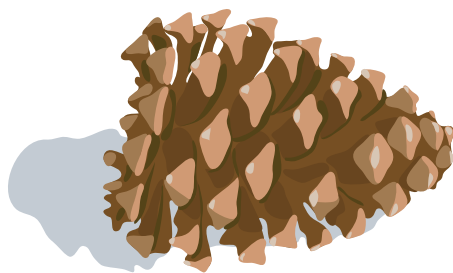
**“The Hundred Languages of Children” defines the Reggio approach as:**

“...a collection of schools for young children in which each child’s intellectual, emotional, social, and moral potentials are carefully cultivated and guided. The principal educational vehicle involves youngsters in long-term engrossing projects, which are carried out in a beautiful, healthy, love-filled setting.”



## **We are inspired by the Reggio approach, which is founded upon the following beliefs:**

1. The child is an active, strong, competent collaborator in the evolution of their learning. Children are respected for their ideas, observations, and theories which can be seen in the documentation of their work that lines the hallways and classrooms.
2. The teacher is a guide, rather than an instructor, who observes, questions, researches, documents, reflects, and interprets. Teachers work as teammates, with a shared goal of finding ways to make the learning experience richer for the children, to provoke greater insight into ideas and theories that children possess, and to encourage relationships both within and beyond our classroom walls. Additional training and conference attendance are encouraged so teachers can continue on their own journey in professional development.
3. The classroom is a teacher unto itself. The space the children share is appealing, natural, and reflects their specific interests. The classroom is seen as a place for the children to explore, experiment, and observe all of the materials available to them. This may include their own work, recycled and natural materials, and objects the teachers observe may be of interest to them. The classroom contains areas for literacy, art, dramatic play, construction, science, and more. The materials are open-ended and allow for individual, small group, and large group interactions.
4. The relationships that develop between the children, their families, and the teachers create opportunity for growth, reflection, and support. The children and their families connect with the teachers as soon as they enter our doors, and these relationships will continue long after the children have parted. We recognize the important role that children play in our lives and our town, and we collaborate with our community to provide them every experience possible. Teachers regularly document the experiences of the children at our school, providing parents and guests insight into their interests, learning, and development.
5. Long-term projects are at the core of our program, using the children's interests and the teacher's observations as the guide. Children participate in small group and large group projects, involving observation, reflection, investigation, excursions, questioning, and interviewing. Children process the information as they gather it and represent their learning in a variety of "languages". When children represent their ideas through a variety of medium or "languages", they reinforce new knowledge, allow chances to reflect and question, use this knowledge as a stepping stone to further investigation, and are able to share with others what they have come to know. Gatherings are held daily, allowing the children a chance to share ideas, discuss and reflect on their projects plans, and collaborate on common interests.



"Once there was a tree...  
And she loved a little boy.  
And every day the boy would come  
And he would gather her leaves  
And make them into crowns  
And play king of the forest.  
He would climb up her trunk  
And swing from her branches  
And eat apples.  
And when  
he was tired  
he would sleep  
in her shade.  
And the boy loved the tree...  
And the tree was happy"



We hope that you will consider joining us on this journey as we continue to grow. Please feel free to stop by for a tour, visit our website, or contact us with any questions or to share your thoughts and experiences with us



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**[www.timberlinelearningcenter.com](http://www.timberlinelearningcenter.com)**