

# Our Building Is a Teacher

The Quiet Room provides an oasis for children and families who need a quiet place to cuddle or rest briefly during program time. Parent meetings and music therapy also use this peaceful area.

Parents attend programs with their infants and toddlers to learn about early motor and play skill development.

Quiet area for observing children in the classrooms.

This classroom has a little stage for acting out "story of the month."

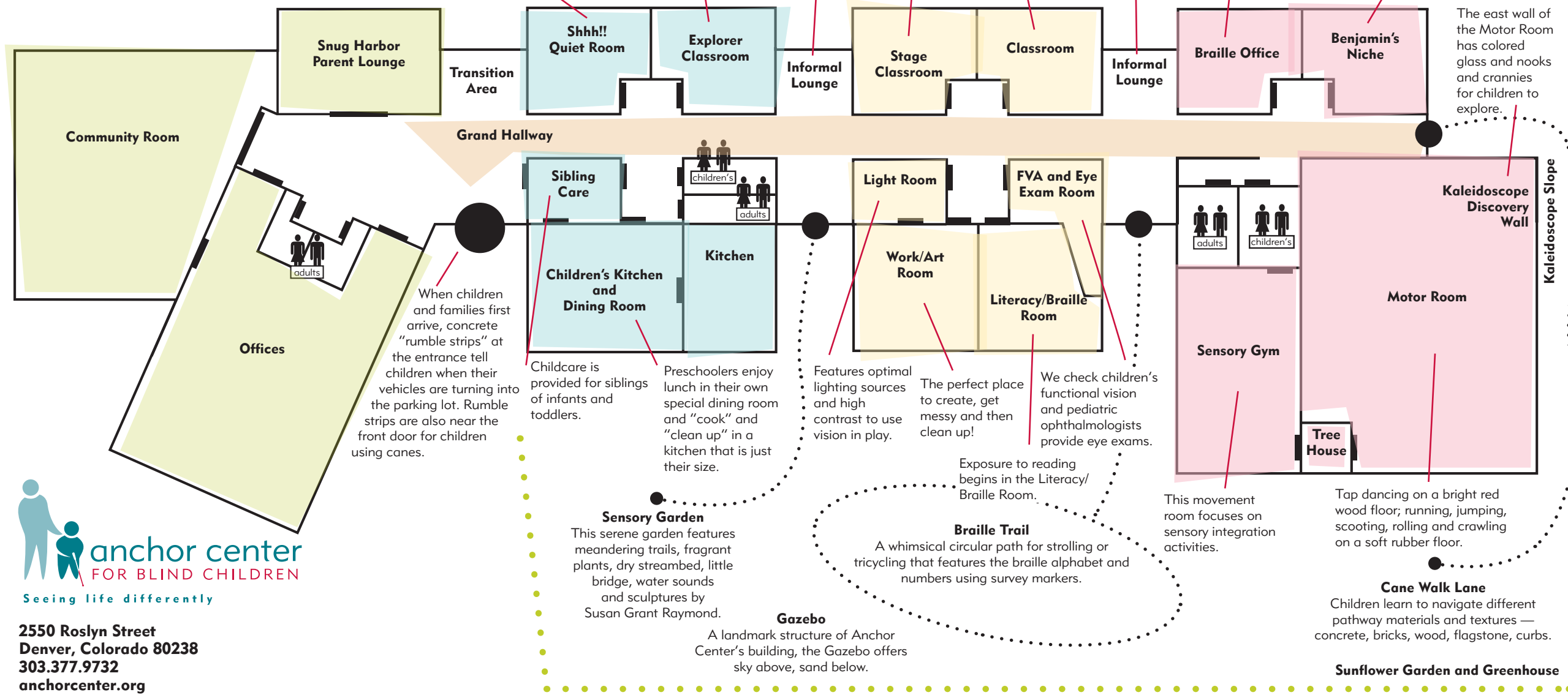
A circle-rug room for sharing and caring.

Another getaway for parents and families.

Staff embosses children's books and other materials with braille.

This sensory classroom with special acoustics is the only classroom with a hard wood floor. The wood floor resonates more than linoleum-type floors in the other classrooms. The sensory classroom is designed for children who are especially sensitive to external stimuli. It makes learning less stressful and more focused.

The east wall of the Motor Room has colored glass and nooks and crannies for children to explore.



When children and families first arrive, concrete "rumble strips" at the entrance tell children when their vehicles are turning into the parking lot. Rumble strips are also near the front door for children using canes.

Childcare is provided for siblings of infants and toddlers.

Preschoolers enjoy lunch in their own special dining room and "cook" and "clean up" in a kitchen that is just their size.

Features optimal lighting sources and high contrast to use vision in play.

The perfect place to create, get messy and then clean up!

We check children's functional vision and pediatric ophthalmologists provide eye exams.

Exposure to reading begins in the Literacy/Braille Room.

This movement room focuses on sensory integration activities.

Tap dancing on a bright red wood floor; running, jumping, scooting, rolling and crawling on a soft rubber floor.



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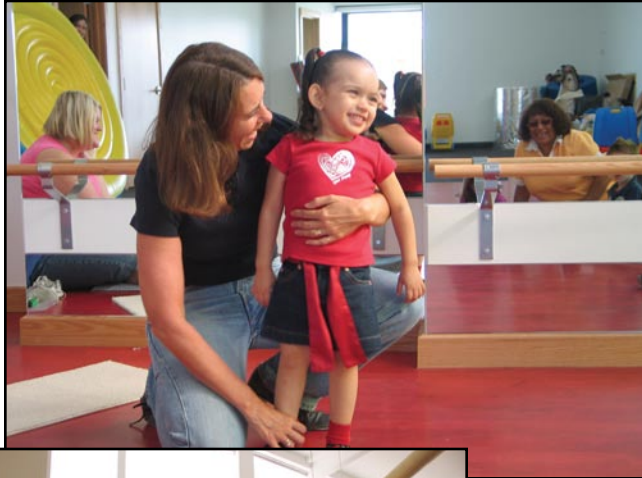
**Sensory Garden**  
This serene garden features meandering trails, fragrant plants, dry streambed, little bridge, water sounds and sculptures by Susan Grant Raymond.

**Gazebo**  
A landmark structure of Anchor Center's building, the Gazebo offers sky above, sand below.

**Braille Trail**  
A whimsical circular path for strolling or tricycling that features the braille alphabet and numbers using survey markers.

**Cane Walk Lane**  
Children learn to navigate different pathway materials and textures — concrete, bricks, wood, flagstone, curbs.

**Sunflower Garden and Greenhouse**



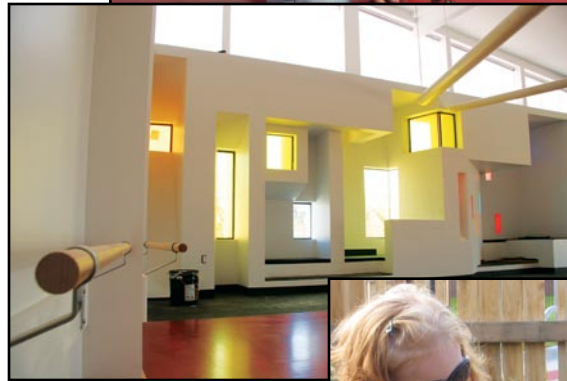
**Anchor Center for Blind Children's Julie McAndrews Mork Building embraces all the senses so that the building itself is a teaching tool. It has special acoustics, light and textures to enhance the children's understanding of the world.**

### *Welcome*

The entry way has a spot to store strollers and car seats and a quiet area for parents to connect. The Grand Hallway leads to all the classrooms and has multiple way-finding tools for the children.

For example, the hallway floor alternates between wood and tile floors. The tile floors let children know they are at the entrance to a classroom pod. The children not only feel the texture change at the tile floor, but hear the sound change as their canes and footsteps resonate on the different surfaces.

The Trail Rail on the north side of the hallway also guides children to the classrooms. Notches in the Trail Rail tell children when they are nearing a classroom.



The Light Walk on the hallway floor simulates natural light, illuminating the way for children who see some light. Look above: Skylights glow in subtle blue, yellow and red alerting the children to the three classroom pods.

### *Down the Grand Hallway*

The first classroom pod, "Blue," has a Quiet Room, Infant Classroom, Sibling Care Room and Children's Kitchen and Dining Room. Preschoolers "cook" and "clean up" in a kitchen that is just their size.

The second classroom pod, "Yellow," has a classroom with a tiny stage, a Light Room, Fine Motor Work/Art Room, Literacy Room and Eye Exam Room.

The Light Room, a perennial favorite of children and their parents, has optimal lighting sources and high contrast to use vision in play. The Work/Art Room encourages development of fine motor skills as children engage in messy play. Exposure to reading begins in the Literacy/Braille Room, where children enjoy story time under natural light in the Broncos Reading Corner.

The third classroom pod, "Red," features a large Motor Room with a hard wood floor for tap dancing and a soft rubber floor for running, jumping, scooting, rolling and crawling. The pod also has a delightful Tree House, Sensory Gym, Braille Production Office and a sensory classroom called Benjamin's Niche.

Two sets of cubbies are tucked between the classroom pods. These custom cubbies have hideaway benches, space for hanging a cane, and notches that tell children which cubbie is theirs. Also between the pods are informal lounges for visitors and families.

### *Light and Shadow*

The Kaleidoscope Discovery Wall, the east wall in the Motor Room, has colored glass and nooks and crannies that beckon children to explore and learn the concepts of room and space. Outside it becomes Kaleidoscope Slope with planting beds, grassy play area and tiny benches.

The nature playground features the Sensory Garden, Cane Walk Lane, Braille Trail, Sunflower Garden and Greenhouse — all within view from the Gazebo.