



montviews

March 2005

Welcome Young 3s

By Nancy Weaver

The Magic of Discovery

Watching a child who has just turned 3 paint with abandon or stretch rubber bands on a geo board is exciting. These Young 3's greet each new activity with enthusiasm. The children come running into the red rug for our initial gathering time to learn about the activities available for that day.

We sing together and each child chooses where to start the day. Choice and movement through the activities are important skills to learn in this class. Having the courage to ask to go to the bathroom or tell another child that she can have the baby when you are finished are also important parts of what they learn. And climbing to finger painting, from dancing to hammering, we plan activities that encompass all developmental areas. It is a new skill to listen to a story with 14 other children and to get your coat on all by yourself when it's time to go outside. The sensory table with salt and glitter is very popular as is the woodworking table with tees and nails.

This class is also an introduction for new parents to Montview. One of the highlights of teaching the Young 3's class is working with new parents to help them learn the Montview ropes.

And the class is a wonderful opportunity for children who miss the Denver Public Schools cut-off to have a few months, January through May, of "pre-preschool." It's a delightful time for them to get acquainted with school. We spend time getting oriented to the classroom environment; getting used to the morning schedule, learning each other's names, learning to sit in group and learning how to make choices, to ask for a turn and to asking someone to stop if they are bothering us.

Through a conventional play-based morning schedule and classroom environment, we use a simple Story Book Curriculum approach to our morning. Our goal is to nurture the children so they feel safe and trust that school is a good place where people who love them provide stimulating activities that are such fun. From climbing to finger painting, from dancing to hammering, we plan activities that encompass all developmental areas.

The children have loved Brown Bear, The Snowy Day, I Like Me and now The Three Bears, which we are reading and acting out. Their creativity at the easel and their uninhibited movement to music each day is a joy to watch. Eileen and I love teaching this age and always wish that we could delay clean up time just a few more minutes. We feel that we get much more from our experiences with the children than they get from us.

Inside

AUCTION NETS \$55,000, SPRING HAS SPRUNG: EXPLORE DENVER'S BEST PARKS; THANKS TO AUCTION VOLUNTEERS, PARTICIPATION PARENTS AND BOOK DRIVE DONORS; PLUS TAX TIPS FROM KIM MCGRIGG

MONTVIEWS

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We welcome your comments, photos and submissions. E-mail preferred. Send text to Katiekm@comcast.net; digital photos (please identify all children in photos) to Grindgrafx@earthlink.net
Or, you may put text and photos in the green newsletter submission folder or find the newsletter correspondent in your child's class. See list of committee members below.

Deadlines:

(All on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.)

April 6

May 4

Newsletter Committee

Editors: Katie McCrimmon and Sara Alkayali

Graphics editor: Angie Lee

Cheryl Zens and Timothy Baldacci (M,W, F a.m.)

Brenna Francy-Cox and Chad Cox

(W,F p.m. Room 210)

Jennifer and Rick Heth (M,T, Th. p.m. Room 213)

Susan and Brian Kempton (M-Th. a.m.)

Andrea and Michael LeClaire (M,W, F p.m.)

Kim and Philip Neal (T, Th. a.m.)

Lisa and Kip Price (M-Th. p.m.)

Karla and John Rehring (W, F p.m. Room 210)

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Liz and Rob Rutledge (T,Th. p.m.)

Meg Stenson (Kindergarten)

Steve and Val Stremsterfer (W,F p.m. Room 213)

www.montviewpreschool.org

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
FROM THE OFFICE**

Parking around Montview can be tough, I know. However, please do not park beyond the NO PARKING signs; it really can create blind spots for cars turning onto and off of Montview. Thanks!

Cover: Holden Zinn contemplates his next move in Nancy's Young 3s class. Photo by Robin Angstadt.

Cover insert: Young 3s student Aanika Sukumar grins with accomplishment. Photo by Robin Angstadt.

Right: Sabrina Darzins. Photo by Sophia Floyd.

www.montviewpreschool.org

from our director

February was an amazing month for us. When the deadline arrived on the 4th, we had received the largest number of preschool applications in the history of the school. The admissions chair and I worked our way through the lists and placed all of the returning kids, all of the children of alums, all siblings and all of the children of color. We were unable to place about 35 children.

A few parents have contacted me with concerns regarding their placement. I need to clarify that all siblings and alum kids are equal in placement. In other words, it doesn't matter if they've had one sibling or four precede them. Nor does it matter if a family has been here one previous year or many.

Finally, I know this whole placement process causes a certain amount of angst, but I urge you to trust the admission process and the wait-list process. It really does work and it is very fair.

The other big event was our fabulous auction. The hours of work by our co-chairs, Jenni Rodriguez and Ann Davis, with support from their amazing committee resulted in a great party and a tremendously successful fundraiser. It appears that we will net about \$55,000. There are so many people to thank and I risk overlooking someone, but I want to acknowledge Seremet Development Group for underwriting our auction with a generous gift. Thanks also to Kim Shankle and Chris Reichert for getting the alcohol donated. Thanks to Mary Henneck and team for all the data entry and thanks to everyone who solicited items and spent money at our event. Your gifts of time and talent make it possible for Montview and the staff to truly soar.

Help Wanted

Montview will be hiring a four-day afternoon preschool teacher for the 2005-06 school year. The position includes benefits and excellent pay. Experience and a B.A. or B.S. is required. If a preschool parent is hired for this position, we will adjust her child's schedule to mesh with working hours. Please contact Abby for details.

Abby





Libby Stroup shows off Vietnamese clothes that she and her family brought for everyone to try on.
Photo by Sophia Floyd.



Whit Dennis displays his work on the geo board in Nancy's Young 3s class. Photo by Robin Angstadt.



news from the classroom

Celebrating the Asian New Year with Carolyn Hill

By Andrea LeClaire

One of the things that makes Carolyn Hill's class so special is the fact that she was once a parent of Montview preschoolers. Her preschoolers are now teenagers and they are of Korean and Chinese heritage. Carolyn commented that being a Montview alumnus "is not unique to me; many of the other Montview teachers were parents, and we get to know the families well and work with parents as partners."

This camaraderie was evident when Carolyn's morning class welcomed the year of the Rooster in January. In the morning class, there are children of Chinese and Vietnamese descent whose families are familiar with the Asian New Year festivities. Outside of the regular class hours, many participated in putting together a beautiful dragon. Then, during the class celebration, the children got to eat with chopsticks, play a T-rung (bamboo xylophone), and sample some Tet treats. The children tried on traditional Vietnamese costumes and paraded through the school with the dragon. At the end of the parade, instead of setting off the official firecrackers, the children jumped up and down on bubble wrap for the firecracker effect! It was a fun opportunity for all to share and learn about others.

Thank you to all of the Participation Parents for all of your hard work this year.

Rachel Brown, Kindergarten
 Marie Cardin, M – Th am
 Kim Davis, M – Th pm
 Elisabeth Lawrence, MWF am
 Katie Knop, MWF pm
 Audrey Dellgren, MTTh am
 Sophia Floyd, MTTh pm
 Mary Lauth, MTTh pm Room 210
 Liz Rita, TTh am
 Bridgette Sweet, TTh pm
 Anne Toppen, WF am
 Paddy O'Rourke, WF pm
 Ginny Creighton, WF pm Room 210
 Kristin Blackwell, MW Young 3s
 Lori Kerr, TTh Young 3s

Be in the Know: Edit the Newsletter

We Need You! Do you like to write and edit? Do you have a flair for design and graphic arts? Montview will need a Newsletter editor and designer next year. Please let Martha or Abby know if you'd like this job next year. It's a perfect fit for people who need to do their volunteer work from home when they have time. And you'll be the first to know everything that's happening at School. Thanks.

Correction: In our never-ending confusion over photos showing children at various workbenches, we failed to give credit to the family who made the new workbench for room 212. A big thanks to Aram Neuschatz for building the beautiful workbench, along with his son, Tyler, who is in Leigh Ann and Bernadette's class. Last month, we featured a photo of the workbench with Mick Poppert hard at work with a hammer. Mick is indeed the child in the photo. But, it was news to him and his family that they built the workbench. Pardon us.

—Katie Kerwin McCrimmon

Money Smarts

By Kim McGrigg

When it comes to taxes, it pays to plan ahead

April will be here before you know it. Have you finished your taxes yet? If you're like many Americans, you will procrastinate as long as you can. In fact, a survey by H & R Block found that almost 40 percent of all Americans in 2002-2003 waited until April to file their taxes costing themselves \$400 due to the mistakes made by rushing and last minute changes.

Starting early is particularly important if you think you might owe the IRS. Calculating your taxes now doesn't mean you have to file before the deadline, but it does give you time to prepare for the results. If you find yourself owing taxes and are not sure how you will pay, consider the following:

File on time. The penalty for failing to file on time is five percent per month of the balance owed. The IRS recommends filing your taxes even if you are unable to pay. If you truly can't get it done by April 15, file for a four-month extension.

Pay on time. The failure to pay on time penalty is .5 percent of the balance due per month. In addition, you'll incur interest on the balance due.

Double-check your work. According to the IRS, even a small mistake can cause problems with your tax return, which might lead to delays in processing your return and receiving your refund.

Start saving. By brown bagging your lunch or reducing other daily expenses, you may be able to save as much as \$100 a week. This would enable you to save more than \$600 before the big day.

Get help. There are many institutions – including the government – who will loan you the money for a price. To request a payment plan, complete Form 9465, Installment Agreement Request, and attach it to the front of your income tax return.

Change your W-4. Contact your company's personnel department to reduce the number of deductions you claim or have extra money withheld so that you won't be hit with the same surprise next year.

According to the IRS, more than 1.2 million people paid their federal taxes by electronic funds withdrawal or credit card during 2003. Think long and hard before pulling out the plastic. The last thing you want to do is roll your tax bill into a revolving credit card balance that you will be paying on this time next year.

In addition to being a Montview mom, Kim McGrigg is a financial advice columnist and writer. In the past two years, she has answered more than 20,000 individual consumer inquiries on topics ranging from repossession to refinancing. As a public relations representative for Money Management International/CCCS, she has conducted more than 500 media interviews with outlets such as Reuters, the Arizona Republic and Newsweek.

NO-COST FUNDRAISING REMINDERS

Purchase grocery coupons either through a standing order filled on the 1st or 15th of the month (fill-out order form or e-mail jjo-ram@qwest.net with amount and continuing date or walk-in to the Montview office. Grocery coupons are available for King Soopers (Safeway accepts these) or Wild Oats.

Pick-up an Albertson's card in the office. This card allows you to pay for your groceries any way you want. Just swipe the card after you purchase your groceries and Montview will receive a percentage of the sale.

Register with www.eScrip.com, designate Montview Preschool and Kindergarten as the group you wish to support and then use the card when buying from participating merchants. Merchant lists are available on-line. WILD OATS & SAFEWAY accept eScrip!

Register with www.schoolpop.com, designate Montview Preschool and Kindergarten as the group you wish to support and then use the card when buying from participating merchants from this portal. You can also purchase gift cards from this site from many stores (JC Penney, Kmart, Kohl's, Target, Mervyn's (via Target), Nordstroms, Walmart and Sam's Club (via Walmart). Gift cards can be used like cash in the Company's stores or on its website.

Register your family or friends on eScrip or Schoolpop. They can designate Montview as the group they are supporting.

We are signed up for eScrip recycling. We need your used inkjet, laser and toner cartridges, and cell phones. For each of these items, Montview will receive cash. Just remember to bring your used items to school and place them in the black container with the recycling sign, located outside the Montview office. If you work in an office, please recycle the used toner cartridges from printers or copy machines.

Jennifer Nolan, Sarah Cheikho, and Natalie Angstadt enjoy a spin on the tire swing. Photo by Robin Angstadt

Montview Community Donates Over 200 Books

As always, Montview Parents come through! The Book Drive benefited from a tremendous effort during the last winter's book fair. Because of such generous support, over 200 books were collected. The books were distributed during the annual Read2Kids event held March 5th. This event gave away new or gently used books to the children attending any of the four Read2Kids parties throughout the city. The goal was to provide books at no cost to any child who so desired. The event was coordinated by the Junior League of Denver and many thanks to Lea Ann Reitzig for orchestrating the distribution. Additionally, a great deal of gratitude is due to the Montview Community for making this year's Read2Kids event a better one!



Montview Auction Nets \$55,000



Above: Kelley Howes bids on the "instant wine cellar."

Below left: Auctioneer Shawn Wallace.

Below: The "instant wine cellar."



Far Left: The playhouse.

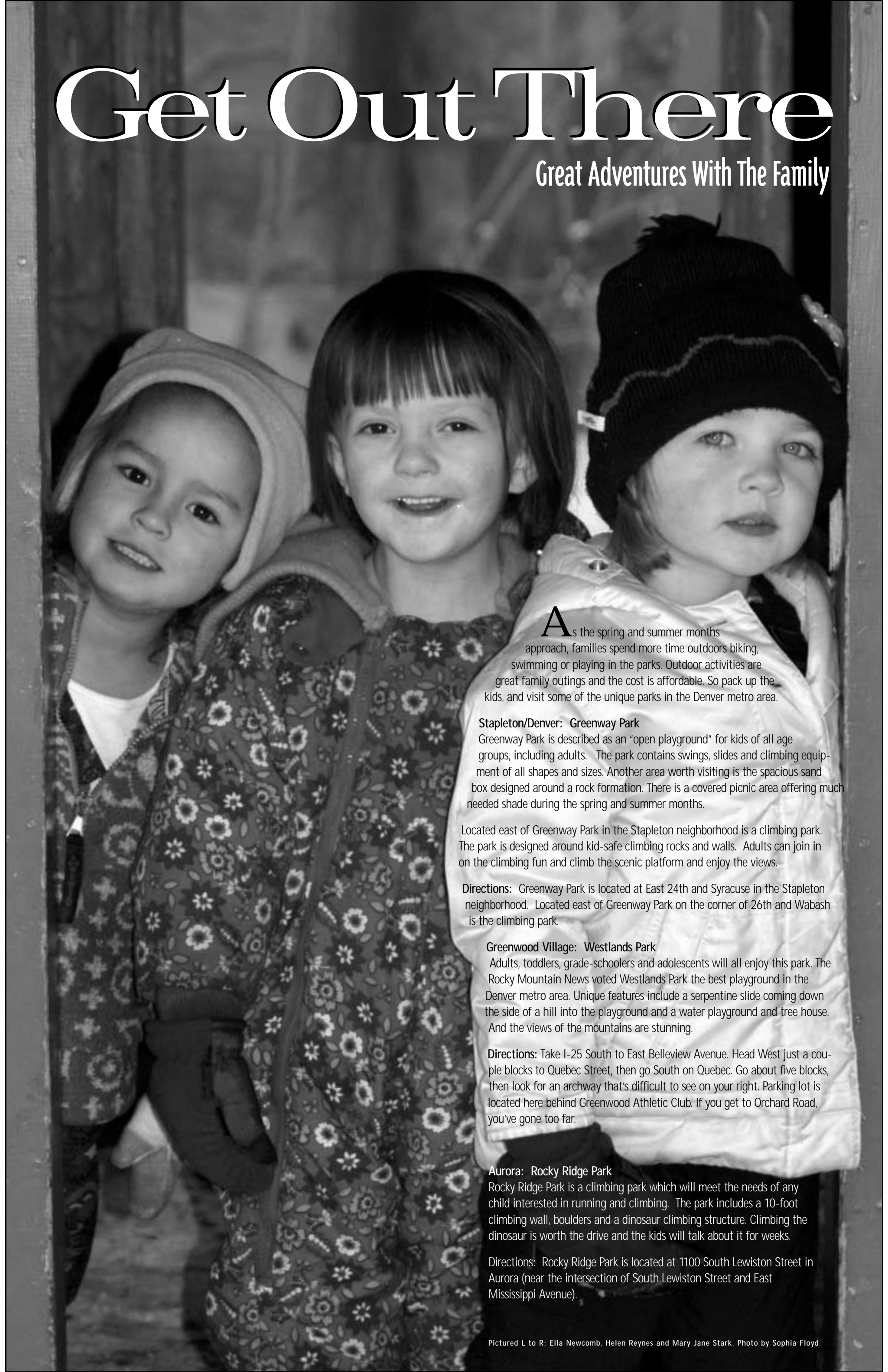
Inset: Lead Teacher Leigh Ann Metscher and Chris Metscher.

Above: Monday - Thursday afternoon class gift.

All photos by Kip Price.

Get Out There

Great Adventures With The Family



As the spring and summer months approach, families spend more time outdoors biking, swimming or playing in the parks. Outdoor activities are great family outings and the cost is affordable. So pack up the kids, and visit some of the unique parks in the Denver metro area.

Stapleton/Denver: Greenway Park

Greenway Park is described as an "open playground" for kids of all age groups, including adults. The park contains swings, slides and climbing equipment of all shapes and sizes. Another area worth visiting is the spacious sand box designed around a rock formation. There is a covered picnic area offering much needed shade during the spring and summer months.

Located east of Greenway Park in the Stapleton neighborhood is a climbing park. The park is designed around kid-safe climbing rocks and walls. Adults can join in on the climbing fun and climb the scenic platform and enjoy the views.

Directions: Greenway Park is located at East 24th and Syracuse in the Stapleton neighborhood. Located east of Greenway Park on the corner of 26th and Wabash is the climbing park.

Greenwood Village: Westlands Park

Adults, toddlers, grade-schoolers and adolescents will all enjoy this park. The Rocky Mountain News voted Westlands Park the best playground in the Denver metro area. Unique features include a serpentine slide coming down the side of a hill into the playground and a water playground and tree house. And the views of the mountains are stunning.

Directions: Take I-25 South to East Belleview Avenue. Head West just a couple blocks to Quebec Street, then go South on Quebec. Go about five blocks, then look for an archway that's difficult to see on your right. Parking lot is located here behind Greenwood Athletic Club. If you get to Orchard Road, you've gone too far.

Aurora: Rocky Ridge Park

Rocky Ridge Park is a climbing park which will meet the needs of any child interested in running and climbing. The park includes a 10-foot climbing wall, boulders and a dinosaur climbing structure. Climbing the dinosaur is worth the drive and the kids will talk about it for weeks.

Directions: Rocky Ridge Park is located at 1100 South Lewiston Street in Aurora (near the intersection of South Lewiston Street and East Mississippi Avenue).