



CORNERSTONE
CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC.

Problems solved: Innovative play space attracts both kids and parents

Redondo Beach-based contractor Cornerstone Construction Group, Inc. helps new play space franchisee strike the right balance of safety, comfort and fun in South Bay

Imagine a play and party space where mom and dad can sip espresso, listen to music and catch up on email while the kids romp in a carefree, safe environment.

The COOP South Bay in Redondo Beach opened its doors with a mission to change how we view the play date.

The concept demands room for kids to navigate between slides, bouncers, rope climbs, ball pits and dance floor, as well as a separate area for the parents to enjoy.



“After we landed our franchise for The COOP South Bay 18 months ago, we began looking for a space that we could either convert or build out,” said Peter Rockwood, co-owner with his wife Robyn.

“At first we looked at spots that already had the infrastructure built in – an old grocery store, a big salon, etc. But they didn’t have the right access or parking. Where you have kids arriving with moms and running in, you need a safe entrance area.”

The Rockwoods at last found the ideal location at the palm tree-lined corner of North Catalina and Gertrude, not far from the marina.

“This place had 100 parking spaces, it was practically brand new, and nearby there was retail, a Japanese restaurant, an Italian café and pastry spot, and a beautiful courtyard. Everything was clean, bright, and safe. We liked it.”

Because there was no pre-existing infrastructure, the Rockwoods had to go through months of permitting and planning commission processes before they finally got approved. Finding the right contractor proved even more challenging.

“I asked around for referrals, and the first several we found were either flaky or treated us like we were too

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small to be a priority. After two-and-a-half months of this a friend at the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce encouraged me to talk with Vic Braden at Cornerstone Construction Group, Inc. – just across the street from the Chamber.”

They met a week later, and right off Cornerstone produced a first bid that identified improved design and cost-saving ideas that were likely to be approved by the building and planning commission. After some minor value engineering a contract was signed, then construction began almost immediately.



“They stayed on schedule and on point through the whole process, and they were very responsive to us,” said Rockwood.

“Like any project we had a few hurdles to get over. Our architectural plans weren’t drawn to scale, for one thing, and when we framed up some interior walls, we found that encroached on the play space. Vic and the Cornerstone team repositioned the frames at different angles until we found one that opened up the space amazingly well. They solved a huge problem for us.”

“It was just a very professional, supportive and great relationship,” he continued. “Everything happens for a reason – I’m glad we didn’t settle for the other guys and got a chance to work with Vic and his team.”

Redondo Beach parents may be just as glad for having the right place to let the kids loose while getting some quality “me-time.”

About Cornerstone Construction Group, Inc.:

After having served the U.S. Navy as a Chief Engineer during the Vietnam War and then having spent 12 years serving major SoCal medical centers as director of facilities and construction, Vic Braden, along with his wife, Linda, founded Cornerstone over 30 years ago to provide design and construction management services to health care and commercial enterprises. Their daughter, Stella, joined in 1999 and son V.J. joined in 2007. The family manifests a strong desire to invest in the continued development of the South Bay and over the years, has spent spare time and company resources helping their local communities.

