

GATEWAY CHILDCARE CENTER

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA



Project Description

The Gateway Childcare Center is a YMCA-operated facility serving a South San Francisco office complex. Outdoor play and learning are considered an extension of the indoor activities. The exterior play space moves seamlessly from the inside of the building to sunny and protected space. The large open space allows for active recreation of various age groups.

An earthwork planted with native grasses wiggles across the site like a giant fuzzy caterpillar. The "Fuzzy Caterpillar" defines the play area, modulating the site into more child-scale spaces, blocks views of traffic and creates a distinct identity for the childcare center within the office complex. The gesture of the earthwork is contrasted by an allee of poplars that delineates pedestrian traffic while screening parking areas and blocks wind.

*Construction completed in 2004.

Architect

Starkweather Bondy Architecture

Client

City of South San Francisco

Awards

2005 AIA Small Firms, Great Projects

