

School of Imagination & Happy Talkers

in association with Discovery Homes

Array of products donated to School of Imagination & Happy Talkers help ensure new school is built to last.

LOCATION

Dublin, California

WEBSITE

www.discoveryhomes.com

PROJECT SUMMARY

Discovery Homes is motivated to enhance the lives of their homebuyers and their communities, which is why they jumped at the opportunity to assist the School of Imagination & Happy Talkers, a local nonprofit organization that provides speech, occupational and behavioral therapy services for special needs preschool and kindergarten children.

“As the program grew, we moved to eight temporary facilities within four years,” said Mitch Sigman with the School of Imagination. “With more than 300 children coming through our doors each week, we’re on the brink of having to close down our program.”

In order to give the school a new, permanent 12,000 sq. ft. home, former Dublin, Calif., Mayor Janet Lockhart came to Discovery Homes for help. Discovery donated land for the project, and turned to LP for the reliable engineered wood framing, sheathing, trim & siding products that they’d come to know and trust.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Identify material donors with a reputation for quality products
- Ensure structural integrity so the new building will last for years to come
- Create open, multi-use spaces and classrooms

SOLUTION

Because of their years of positive experience building with LP products for the residential market, Discovery Homes approached LP to donate products for the school, including LP® SmartSide® Trim & Siding to help the school match the aesthetic of the Schaefer Ranch development. Completed in 2011, the School of Imagination & Happy Talkers now has a permanent home.



“LP really helped us make this build possible, and since LP’s products are built to last the school now has room to grow.”

Dana Owyong
Director of Residential Operations and
Product Development, Discovery Homes



IMPLEMENTATION

“We went to our trade partners for help,” Owyong said. “We were working with LP on our housing in Schaefer Ranch. Because we trusted these products on our homes, we knew they’d be a good fit for the school.” LP donated LP® SmartSide® Trim & Siding, LP® TechShield® Radiant Barrier Sheathing, LP® TopNotch® Sub-Flooring, LP® OSB Sheathing, and LP® SolidStart® Engineered Wood Products.

“We use LP OSB products extensively in all of our homes. It’s a very good, competitively priced structural product for both sheathing and sub-flooring and was perfect for the school,” Owyong said. “The TechShield sheathing we used on the roof has helped us reduce the tonnage of the HVAC units in our homes and get credits to meet our mandatory energy compliance codes.”

In addition to his role as the director of residential operations, Owyong also serves as the corporate architect for Discovery Homes and for this particular project. Because of the variety of programs the School of Imagination offers, Owyong created large open classrooms to provide multipurpose spaces. He used LP SolidStart LVL, Rim Board, and I-Joists to provide stability in these rooms. He said he found the products to be “very true and stable for construction” with “precise dimensioning.”

Because the school was built in the Schaefer Ranch neighborhood, Owyong needed lap siding to mirror the development’s American farmhouse look. He said LP SmartSide Siding fit right into this need and offered easier installation than other products he’s used.

“My installer says the lap siding went up really well because it’s true to dimension and doesn’t warp or twist like solid sawn wood. We can

use longer pieces without worrying about breakage like we’ve encountered when using fiber cement products in the past,” Owyong said.

OUTCOME

The school was completed in 2011 and held its grand opening on Oct. 14.

“When former Mayor Janet Lockhart came to us and told us the school was looking for a new home, we were on board. We donated land from our Schaefer Ranch development and began construction,” Owyong said. “The donation from LP really helped us make this build possible, and since LP’s products are built to last the school now has room to grow.”

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