

# Case Study: Children's Haven Child Care Center

## ExitPoint™



Safety is of paramount importance to parents, no matter what age their children are. Kathie Maxwell says that when parents inquire about placing their children in her day care center, safety issues typically top their list of questions — and rightfully so.

“Parents look for a good fire alarm system and a good security system, and those things are important to them. If you have any common sense at all, you want that protection for your children,” says Maxwell, who owns the Children's Haven Child Care Center in Denver with her husband.

That's why when Maxwell and her directors give tours at the center, they point out the new System Sensor ExitPoint™ directional sound system that helps safeguard their young charges.

What sets ExitPoint apart from a typical fire alarm or horn is that it doesn't just warn building occupants that there's a fire; it signals where to find the nearest exit. Triggered by the fire alarm control panel, ExitPoint draws attention to exit routes in emergency situations. The varying tones and intensities coming from directional sound devices offer easy-to-understand cues for rapidly finding exits. ExitPoint can be used in a number of applications, including university and college campuses, schools, office buildings, retail, lodging, museums and day care centers.

“It was a very smart move to do sounders versus horns and strobes,” says Efrain Cordova, an electrical contractor with Competitive Electric Inc. in Littleton, Colo. Cordova installed ExitPoint at the center, as well as a fire alarm package that includes standard audible/visible devices.

Children's Haven sets off ExitPoint during its monthly fire drills so that the children become accustomed to the sound and practice reacting to it. During their first ExitPoint drill, the center's full building evacuation time dropped from about two minutes to one.

“Being a child care facility, it helps children to concentrate a lot better on decibels that get louder versus an annoying, blowing horn that doesn't change in frequency no matter how far away you get from it,” said Cordova.

Although infants and toddlers are too young to evacuate the same way the older children do — and by law, their rooms must have their own outside exits — ExitPoint sounders are located above their exits to provide extra assistance for adult caregivers. “Even if the room is filled with smoke and was in pitch-black darkness, they'd still get out,” says Cordova.



The effectiveness of the technology is most dramatic in smoky or low-visibility conditions where visual direction guides, such as illuminated signage, would falter. Studies have shown that ExitPoint reduces evacuation times by up to 75 percent in smoky conditions and by 35 percent in clear visibility. The technology also holds great promise for blind or visually impaired individuals.

It's for these reasons that Cordova believes that directional sounders are “10-fold better than horns for a standard fire alarm system” in helping people evacuate quickly.

Donations, including the ExitPoint system, have made it possible for Children's Haven to offer a safe learning environment for children. The ExitPoint system, according to Maxwell, is “a

great system for people to know about, and we appreciate what we got.”

### Effective emergency evacuations

The ExitPoint sounder provides the ideal solution for new and retrofitted fire alarm systems. As an audible exit sign, ExitPoint guides people to building exits — reliably, intuitively and safely. It can reduce evacuation times up to 75 percent, prevent injuries and help save lives.

For more information, visit [www.systemsensor.com/ep](http://www.systemsensor.com/ep).



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