How do you know where to begin?
Start with what you know about your child; you know better than anyone where they are most likely to thrive.

With over 250 preschool partners, the Denver Preschool Program offers a variety of choices across the Denver area. These choices range from family child care homes and center-based programs to preschool classrooms in Denver Public Schools. Regardless of the exact setting or type of program, all of our preschool partners are licensed and undergo a rigorous quality rating process.

All Denver children enrolled in their last year of preschool before kindergarten are eligible for tuition support through the Denver Preschool Program.

5 STEPS TO CHOOSE THE BEST PRESCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

1. Use our online Find a Preschool tool at DPP.org to check out the location, description, hours of operation, contact information and quality rating of our preschool partners.

2. Schedule a visit with your child so you can see how your child feels in the preschool and how staff relates to your child.

3. Use our checklist on the back to help you take notes on your visit.

4. Enroll your child in your top-choice preschools.

5. GET HELP WITH TUITION

Once enrolled in one of DPP’s preschool partner’s programs, all Denver families can sign up for tuition support with the Denver Preschool Program. Find our TUITION CREDIT CALCULATOR, applications and more at DPP.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A PRESCHOOL VISIT DPP.ORG

303.595.4DPP (4377)
First Impressions Matter

When you walk into the preschool with your child is your first impression positive?

- Watch your child’s response. Did adults acknowledge your child or just focus on other adults?
- Observe how teachers interact with children. Are they at children’s eye level when they talk to them? Do they appear responsive to individual children by listening closely, asking questions and using positive language?
- It is important that your child’s classroom has a variety of age-appropriate learning materials, toys and equipment. Are there places for quiet time and an area for dramatic play?
- Does the classroom seem clean and safe with enough adults to supervise children?

Ask Questions

- What is the school’s philosophy about how children learn?
- What is the school’s approach to children’s behavior and discipline?
- How do activities promote social emotional and intellectual growth and stimulate creativity?
- Is there space and materials to promote a wide range of developmental activities from holding a pencil or cup to running and jumping?
- Walk around the room and ask the teacher what the child is learning from the different activity centers.
- Since no two children are at the same stage of development, how does the teacher support individual children in their learning?
- Do children have their own place to keep their special things?
- What is the daily schedule? Does the preschool offer activities your child would like to participate in and is there time for your child to explore?
- How does the school communicate with families and how often?
- Can you visit the classroom at any time?
- Ask to talk to parents who have a child in the school.