

Denver Preschool Program

Achieving access to high-quality preschool for Denver's children
Annual Report to the Community – 2009



Contents:

A message from Gloria Higgins, Chairwoman, Board of Directors,
and James Mejía, Chief Executive Officer



Aiming for Success at an Early Age: About the Denver
Preschool Program



How DPP Works: Family Enrollment and Tuition Assistance



How DPP Works: Provider Enrollment and Quality Improvement



Tracking our Progress



2009 DPP Providers List



The Denver Preschool Program: Building a Brighter Future

A message from Gloria Higgins, Chairwoman, DPP Board of Directors; and James Mejía, Chief Executive Officer

In less than three years of operation, the Denver Preschool Program, or DPP, has made great strides towards making high-quality preschool accessible to each and every family in Denver. Since our inception in the fall of 2007, DPP has helped more than 11,000 children prepare for a lifetime of learning by increasing the availability of high-quality preschool throughout our community.

The impact of our work, however, goes far beyond the numbers. Making high-quality preschool available to Denver families is one of the best investments we can make in our community—a fact that numerous studies have articulated. Our public schools benefit because our children are better prepared for kindergarten. The community benefits from an increased investment in small businesses. And taxpayers benefit because our government will spend less on special education, crime prevention and social services. Looking at the much larger picture, our nation benefits from a more skilled workforce that will increase our competitiveness on a global scale.

Keeping this in mind, DPP remains laser-focused on the task at hand of ensuring every child in Denver—regardless of his or her family’s income—is afforded the same opportunity to receive a high-quality early education. We are steadfast in this mission and believe that by continuing to provide tuition credits to families and quality-improvement grants to preschools, we will make our community a better place. Our children deserve nothing less.

We’ve accomplished quite a bit in a short amount of time, and we haven’t done it alone. From the voters who passed the ballot initiative creating DPP to the providers that carry out our mission on a daily basis, our success truly has been a collaborative effort. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the providers, teachers and staff who make up our extraordinary network of preschools. We certainly wouldn’t be where we are today without the hard work of the DPP staff, our Board of Directors and our Board of Advisors, and we thank them for their dedication. We’d also like to thank Mayor John Hickenlooper, his Office of Education and Children, and Denver City Council.

Like the smiling young faces that enter our program each year, we have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to. We hope this—our inaugural report to the community—provides a glimpse into our world of Early Childhood Education and inspires you to support our mission.

Sincerely,

Gloria Higgins

Chairwoman, DPP Board of Directors

James Mejía

Chief Executive Officer, Denver Preschool Program

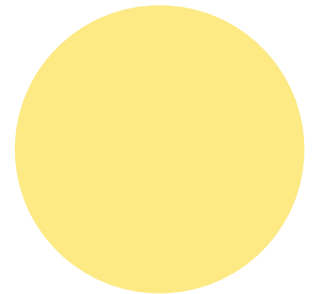
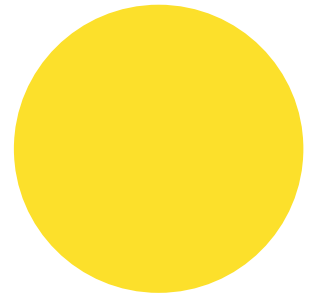


knowledge

paving the way

preschool

affordable high-quality



Aiming for Success at an Early Age: About the Denver Preschool Program

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is the result of a voter-approved ballot initiative passed in November 2006 to increase the availability of high-quality preschool for Denver families. The initiative recognizes the importance of quality early childhood education by setting aside a percentage of Denver sales tax revenue for tuition credits for families and quality improvement grants for preschool providers. DPP provides parents living in the City and County of Denver with a tuition credit to use at the preschool of their choice and offers grants to preschool providers to assist them in their efforts to improve their quality. DPP is open and voluntary for all Denver children in the year of preschool before kindergarten and includes all licensed preschool providers who agree to participate in DPP's quality improvement system.

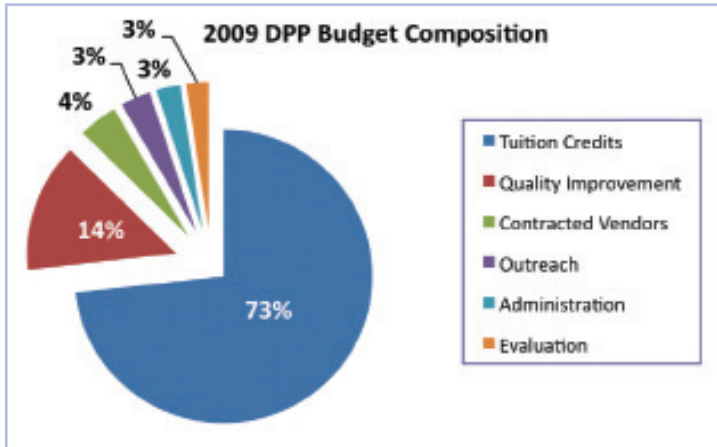
Since January 2007, the City of Denver has been collecting a .12 percent sales tax, the revenue from which generates approximately \$11 million that is marked specifically for DPP. The City contracts operations for DPP with a non-profit corporation, Denver Preschool Program, Inc., which was created for the sole purpose of operating the pro-



gram. DPP is responsible for reporting back to City Council each year on the number of children participating in the program, the quality of the preschool providers and the financial health of the program. Additionally, to maintain its accountability to the community, DPP conducts a yearly program evaluation to monitor the development of children who enroll in DPP as well as examine the program's impact on providers and families.

In the short time since it was established, DPP has disbursed more than \$17.9 million in tuition credits to Denver families, helping more than 11,000 children attend high-quality preschool. Those children have been served by DPP's citywide network of public, private, community and home-based family providers, which consists of more than 550 classrooms at more than 250 sites across Denver.

Denver Preschool Program 2009 Budget*		
2009 Budget	\$	% of total
Tuition Credits	\$12,510,346	73%
Quality Improvement	\$2,429,341	14%
Contracted Vendors	\$727,716	4%
Outreach	\$558,206	3%
Administration	\$451,312	3%
Evaluation	\$410,875	3%
Total	\$17,087,796	



* Unaudited actual results, January 2009 thru October 2009; forecast November 2009 and December 2009

Our Mission

To increase access to quality early childhood education programs for all City and County of Denver Children in their last year of preschool before kindergarten.

Our Vision

To enroll every eligible child and preschool provider in Denver and create a national model for quality early childhood education.

// Our daughter has benefited greatly from preschool. It really helped her with socializing with other kids and discovering routines that we weren't able to teach her, no matter how hard we tried."

–Eric and Kimberly Pruitt, whose daughter attended Montview Community Preschool

How DPP Works: Family Enrollment and Tuition Assistance

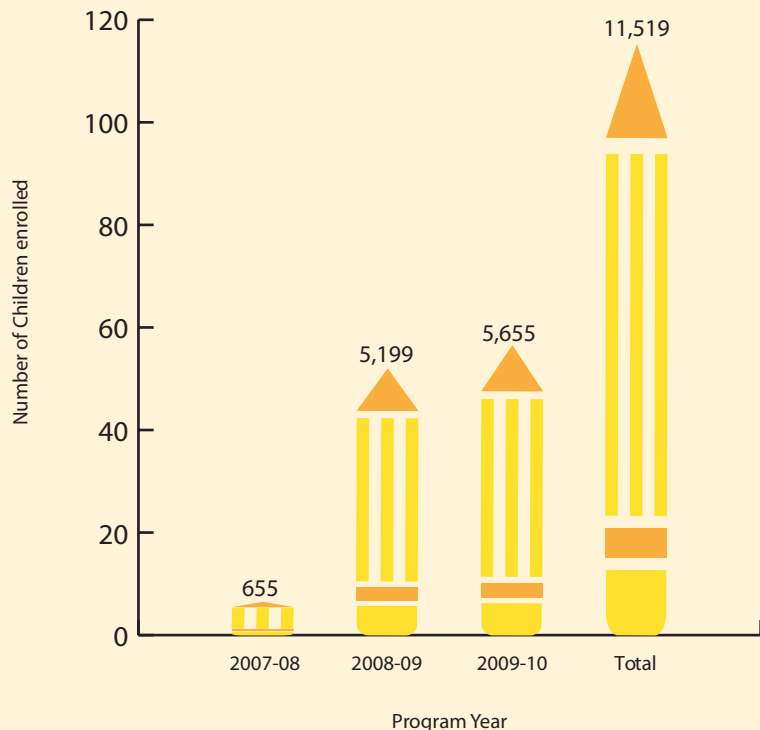
In Colorado, kindergarten teachers report that one in three children enters the classroom unprepared to learn. By providing families with the financial resources to send their children to high-quality preschool, DPP is helping prepare Denver's children for success in K-12 and beyond.

Through DPP, Denver families receive a tuition credit to be used at preschool of their choosing within the DPP network of providers. The credit is paid by DPP directly to the provider, which sets its own monthly tuition rates. To be eligible, families must reside in the City and County of Denver and have a child in his or her last year of preschool before kindergarten. Tuition credits are offered to all families regardless of income level and are calculated based on family income, household size and the quality rating of the preschool. For the 2009-2010 school year, tuition credits ranged from \$34-\$1,250 per student per month.

Denver Preschool Program Tuition Credit Disbursements	
Tuition Credits	\$
2007	\$113,918
2008	\$5,318,300
2009*	\$12,510,346
Total Lifetime	\$17,942,564

* Unaudited actual results, January 2009 thru October 2009; forecast November 2009 and December 2009

Child Enrollment by Program Year



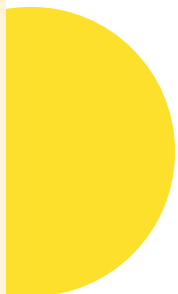
social skills

academic success

opportunity

stronger community

a brighter future



How DPP Works: Provider Enrollment and Quality Improvement

Studies show that high-quality preschool helps children build social skills and self-confidence, and gives them the foundation of knowledge they need to succeed in life. With 80 percent of brain development occurring before the age of five, children attending a good preschool are immersed in an environment that encourages learning and growth.

DPP is committed to increasing access to high-quality preschool, a principle that sets us apart from many universal pre-kindergarten programs across the nation. We also know that each child is different, so we value a family's prerogative to select the program that best suits their needs. For these reasons enrollment is open to all licensed providers—including public, private, community and home-based, as well as part-day and full-day—that agree to participate in DPP's quality improvement system. Any provider that is committed to quality and serves children who live in Denver is eligible to participate in the program, regardless of size or affiliation. Participating programs receive coaching and access to quality improvement grants that can be used for classroom materials and equipment, staff development and other program support, ultimately benefiting both enrolled and non-enrolled students in every classroom.

Upon enrollment, a provider must agree to participate in DPP's quality rating system but maintains the flexibility to educate based on its own unique curriculum. DPP contracts with Qualistar Early Learning, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood



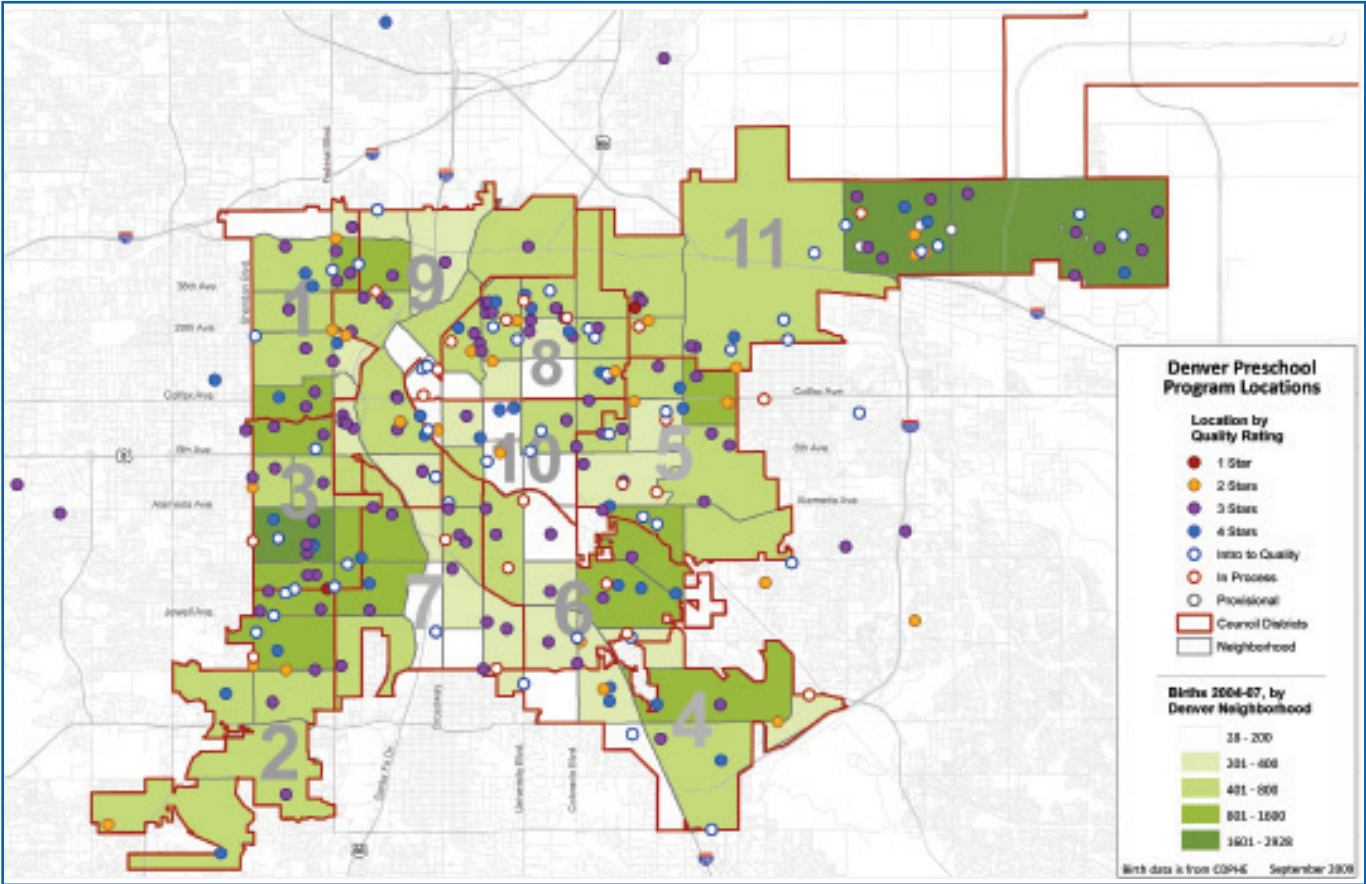
education in Colorado, to administer this system and assign each provider a rating of 0 to 4 stars. Providers that receive and maintain accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) are automatically assigned a 4-star rating.

The DPP quality rating system consists of:

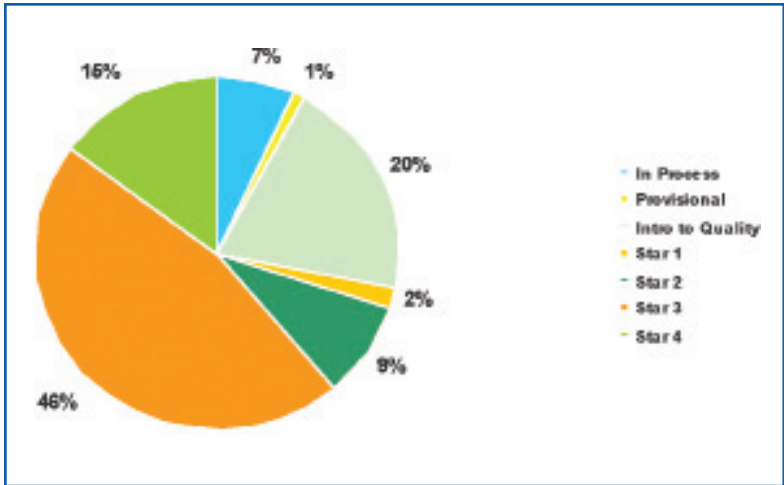
- An introduction to quality
- A quality rating of 0 to 4 stars
- The development and implementation of a quality improvement plan

All participating preschools are eligible to receive assistance and funding from DPP to obtain their quality ratings as well as help develop and achieve their quality improvement plans. In this way, DPP encourages its providers to continually strive towards improvement and is creating a standard for preschool throughout our community. Today, the DPP network of preschools consists of more than 150 providers with 250-plus sites across the city, each of which is focused on delivering high-quality preschool education to Denver's children.

DPP Provider Locations



DPP Providers: Quality Ratings



“ We know that early childhood education programs can only improve, and that children and families will always benefit from the coaching, evaluation and ratings that are offered through programs such as DPP.”

– Jan Gray, Park Hill Adventure Preschool

Tracking our Progress

Following voter approval in November 2006, DPP was launched with the understanding that the challenges ahead were great, but that the rewards of success would be even greater. It would be critical to measure program outcomes not only to maintain community support for the program, but also to ensure the high-quality preschool experience offered through DPP providers is affording our children the proper encouragement and training to develop to the maximum of their potential.

Since day one, DPP has partnered with early childhood education research experts to implement a comprehensive evaluation designed to help us better understand how the program is actually working and to lay the groundwork for making modifications in the future to improve the program. This evaluation is designed to:

- Monitor the effectiveness of DPP supported preschools in improving child outcomes
- Measure the number of and ease with which families are able to enroll their children in DPP partner preschools
- Track the improvement in quality and location of DPP partner preschools
- Examine the experience of both families and preschools in dealing with DPP operating procedures;
- Determine whether program requirements are being met, and;



Most importantly, the evaluation will examine developmental/academic outcomes for children who participated in the program. And because we'll follow DPP children as they progress through the K-12 system, continued evaluation will produce additional insights into the program's overall impacts, including how DPP children perform on academic tests in later grades and how participation in high-quality preschools is associated with greater kindergarten readiness.

The close of the 2008-2009 school year marked the completion of our second full year of the evaluation. These early results are promising: in less than three years of operation, DPP has had a significant and positive impact on providers, families and children, demonstrating that youngsters are emerging from DPP programs more prepared for kindergarten and life-long success.

Overall highlights from the DPP 2008-2009 Program Year Evaluation include the following:

Children

- Children participating in DPP made significant progress in both academic and socio-emotional development above expected normal growth.
- Assessments show DPP children made academic progress in vocabulary, literacy and math during their preschool year.
- Children in DPP made considerable progress in socio-emotional development, with teachers reporting significantly more positive behaviors and fewer behavioral concerns.

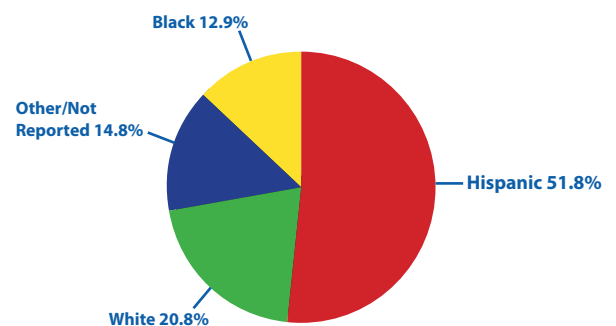
Families

- More than two-thirds of surveyed families (i.e., parents or other caregivers) report that DPP helped their children maintain continuous enrollment in preschool.
- DPP family participation increased more than eight-fold from 2007 to 2009
- One third of parents reported they would not have enrolled their children in preschool without a DPP tuition credit

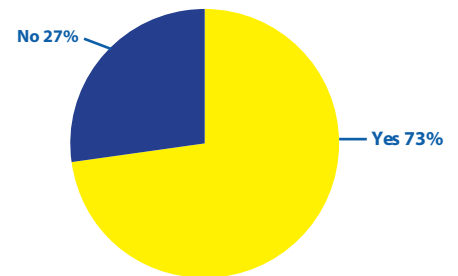
Preschool Providers

- Sixty-seven preschool classrooms engaged for the first time in a quality improvement and rating process.
- Nearly all (98%) providers reported that their involvement with DPP encouraged them to improve their program, with more than a third reporting programs were improved "to a great extent."
- By 2008-2009, more than 110 preschool providers were approved by DPP. Today, that number tops 155.

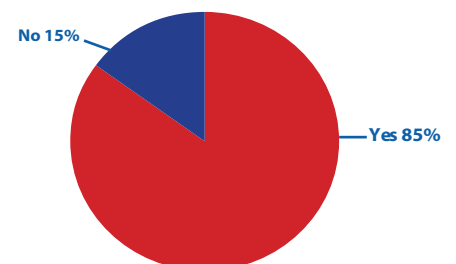
Reported Race/Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in DPP (2008-2009)



Did DPP have an impact on enrollment?



Is child enrolled in a 3- or 4-star preschool?



2009 DPP Provider List

A Busy Child Preschool
 A Plus Kids
 ABC Childcare Center
 ABN Columbine Montessori School
 Academic Play Learning Center
 Agape ECE
 Amesse (DPS)
 Anchor Center for Blind Children
 AOD Blessed Sacrament
 AOD Christ the King Roman Catholic School
 AOD Good Shepherd Catholic School
 AOD Guardian Angels
 AOD Most Precious Blood Early Learning Center
 AOD Notre Dame Early Learning Center
 AOD Presentation of Our Lady
 AOD St Catherine of Siena Preschool
 AOD St Francis de Sales
 AOD St James Catholic School
 Archuleta (DPS)
 Arlene's Learning Center
 Armstrong Child Development Center
 Asbury (DPS)
 Ashley (DPS)
 Augustana Early Learning Center
 Auntie Ruth's Day Care
 Auraria Early Learning Center
 Barnum (DPS)
 Barrett (DPS)
 Barrett at Clayton (DPS)
 Beach Court (DPS)
 Bergamo Academy
 BMH-BJ Congregation Preschool
 Bradley (DPS)
 Bright Horizons Montessori at Denver Place
 Bright Horizons Montessori at the Marina
 Bright Horizons Montessori on the Mall
 Bright Star Early Learning
 Bright Star Learning Palace I
 Bright Stars Child Care and Preschool
 Brown (DPS)
 Bryant-Webster (DPS)
 Cachitos Day Care Home
 Calvary Temple Child Enrichment Center
 Candyland Learning Center
 Carson (DPS)
 Castro (DPS)
 Caterpillars to Butterflies Child Care
 Catholic Charities CDC
 Catholic Charities Garfield HS
 Catholic Charities Kentucky HS
 Catholic Charities Lenore' B Quick
 Catholic Charities Little Munchkins HS
 Catholic Charities Margery Reed
 Catholic Charities Mi Segunda Casa HS
 Catholic Charities St Rose of Lima
 CCI Montessori
 CEC Early Learning Academy
 Centennial (DPS)
 Cheltenham (DPS)
 Cherry Grove Preschool
 Children Are The Future
 Children's Chalet Daycare
 Children's Corner Learning Center
 Children's Haven
 Children's Outreach Project
 Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center
 Circle of Love
 Clayton Educare
 Cole (DPS)
 Colfax (DPS)
 College View (DPS)
 Colonnade Children's Center
 Colorado International School
 Columbian (DPS)
 Columbine (DPS)
 Congregation Rodef Shalom
 Cory (DPS)
 Cowell (DPS)
 CP of Colorado/Creative Options
 Crayon Academy
 Creative Beginnings Preschool and School-Age
 Creative Minds Academy
 Crestmoor Learning Center
 Custom House Children's Center
 Daddy Mom Daycare
 Day One Daycare Learning Center
 Denison (DPS)
 Denver Child Care Center
 Denver Cooperative Preschool
 Denver Montclair International School
 Dos Pasitos
 Doull (DPS)
 Dreamers Day Camp
 E & R Cannon Child Care Center
 Eagleton (DPS)
 Early Excellence@ Wyatt
 Early Success Academy
 Edison (DPS)
 El Mundo Feliz
 Ellis (DPS)
 Emmanuel Methodist Preschool
 Escuela Tlatelolco Circulo Montessori
 Fairmont (DPS)
 Fairview (DPS)
 Family Flex Early Education Center
 Family Star Montessori and Early Head Start Northeast
 Family Star Montessori and Early Head Start Northwest
 Fisher Early Learning Center
 Force (DPS)
 Ford (DPS)
 Future Leaders Childcare Center
 Garden Place (DPS)
 Gilpin (DPS)
 Gladys Campbell
 Godsman (DPS)
 Goldrick (DPS)
 Grant Ranch (DPS)
 Green Valley (DPS)
 Greenlee (DPS)
 Greenlee Extended Day (DPS)
 Greenwood (DPS)
 Gust (DPS)
 Happy Ladybug LLC
 Harrington (DPS)
 Hebrew Educational Alliance (HEA) Preschool
 Holm (DPS)
 Home Away From Home
 Hope Center, Inc.
 House of Joy Christian Learning Center
 Howell (DPS)

Inner City School
Inspire Preschool
Johnson (DPS)
Kaiser (DPS)
Kiddie Kollege, Inc.
KinderCare Learning Center
King Baptist Child Development Center
Knapp (DPS)
Knight Fundamental Academy – CEE (DPS)
Knight Fundamental Academy at Hallett (DPS)
Knowledge Beginnings
La Petite Academy Inc
Lil' People Learning Center
Lincoln (DPS)
Little Angels Daycare
Little Friends Child Care
Little Friends Learning Center
Little Giants Learning Center
Little Saints Daycare and Learning Center
Los Angelitos de Ana
Lowry (DPS)
Marrama (DPS)
Martin School of Early Education
Maxwell (DPS)
McGlone (DPS)
McKinley-Thatcher (DPS)
McMeen (DPS)
MHM Edna Oliver Early Learning Center
MHM Lowry Montessori
MHM North East Child Care Center
MHM Rude Park Early Learning Center
MHM Sun Valley Early Learning Center
MHM Westwood Early Learning Center
Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment (DPS)
Montessori Academy of Colorado
Montessori Children's House
Montessori Children's House
Montessori Children's Village
Montessori School of Washington Park
Montview Preschool
Moore (DPS)
Morning Star
Mount Saint Vincent
Mountain View Child Care Center
MSCD Early Family Literacy @ Munroe
Mundo de Juguete Daycare
Munroe (DPS)
Nadiyah Gayles Family Childcare
Nellie's Daycare Home
Newlon (DPS)
Nyece's Childcare
Oakland (DPS)
One Step at a Time Academy
Paddington Station
Palmer (DPS)
Park Hill (DPS)
Park Hill Adventure
Park Hill United Methodist Church Children's Center
Parzival Shield Waldorf Preschool/Kindergarten
Philips (DPS)
Pioneer Charter School
Place (DPS)
Play and Learn
Primrose School of Stapleton
Pro's Day Care
Rainbow Child Day Care
Raquel's Rascals
Real Kids, Inc.

Renaissance Children's Center
Robert E Loup Jewish Community Center
Roberts (DPS)
Rock-A-Bye Cradle
Rocky Mountain SER Centro Wrap Around
Rocky Mountain SER HS Highland Wrap
Sabin (DPS)
Samuels (DPS)
Sandoval (DPS)
Schenck (DPS)
Schlessman YMCA Child Care Center
Schmitt (DPS)
Scribble's Day Care
Sewall at Doull
Sewall at Knight
Sewall CDC
Smith (DPS)
Southmoor (DPS)
St Andrew Lutheran School/Child Care
St Johns Lutheran Church
Steck (DPS)
Stedman (DPS)
Steele (DPS)
Steele Cooperative Preschool
Stepping Stone Learning Center
Sunshine Academy, LLC
Swansea (DPS)
Teller (DPS)
Temple Emanuel Preschool and Kindergarten
The Advantage Learning Center
The Children's College CCD
The Children's House of Stapleton, LLC
The Cottage / Cherry Creek Early Childhood
The Dalton Gang
The Denver Athletic Club Children's Center
The Denver Waldorf School
The Golden Triangle Learning Center
The Little Rascals
The Rise School
Thomas/Lakewood Learning
Threats Childcare Center
Three Bears Learning Center
Tiny Town for Tot's
Traylor (DPS)
Treasureland Preschool
Trevista at Horace Mann (DPS)
Tricia's Childcare
Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Learning Center
University (DPS)
University Children's Center
Valdez (DPS)
Valverde (DPS)
Venture for Success
VOA Bright Stars Head Start
VOA Rainbow Head Start
VOA Rainbow House CC
Waller (DPS)
Warren Village
Washington Park UMC Preschool
Washington Street Comm Center
Wee Villagers Child Development Home Center
Westerly Creek (DPS)
Westminster Learning Center
Whittier (DPS)
World of Children
Young Enthusiastic Scholars
Yours & Our Little Love

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Denver Health

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DPP STAFF

James Mejía

Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Pacetti

Program Associate



**For additional information about
DPP, write, call or e-mail**

Denver Preschool Program

370 17th Street, Suite 5300

Denver, CO 80202

Office phone: **(303) 825-6246**

Enrollment information: **(303) 595-4DPP**

Email: sarah@dpp.org