IN JUST FOUR SHORT YEARS,
we’ve increased the number of DPP kids enrolled in preschools ten-fold.

That’s a grand total of
5,935
children enrolled in 2010.
The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is the result of a voter-approved ballot initiative passed in November, 2006 that sets aside a percentage of city sales tax revenue to increase the availability of high-quality preschool for Denver families. DPP provides preschool tuition credits for families and quality improvement grants for preschool providers. DPP is open and voluntary for all Denver children in the year of preschool before kindergarten and includes all licensed preschool providers that agree to participate in DPP’s quality improvement system.

Since January 2007, Denver has been collecting a .12 percent sales tax, which generates approximately $10 million per year in revenue for DPP. As a publicly funded entity, DPP is responsible for reporting back to Denver's 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. Annual evaluation data thus far have confirmed that DPP is positively impacting both students and the overall quality of early childhood education in Denver. Evaluation data consistently show that children enrolled in DPP generally make significant progress in socio-emotional development and are more prepared for kindergarten – better positioning them for success throughout their lives.

The 2010 evaluation report highlighted the fact that nearly 90 percent of DPP providers improved their programs due to their involvement with DPP. Of that 90 percent, more than one-third considered their programs to be improved to “a great extent.”

In the short time since it was established, DPP has disbursed more than $25 million in tuition credits to Denver families, helping more than 15,000 children attend high-quality preschool. Those children have been served by DPP’s citywide network of public, private, community and home-based preschool providers, totaling more than 550 classrooms at more than 250 sites across Denver.

Last year was a landmark year for the Denver Preschool Program (DPP). DPP enrolled its 15,000th child in 2010 – a major milestone that speaks volumes about the growth of, and need for, this program. In only four years, we have made incredible strides towards connecting all of Denver’s youngest students with high-quality early childhood education.

As parents and other supporters see the value in quality preschool for all of Denver’s children, DPP enrollment numbers continue to grow and providers continue to make lasting improvements to their programs thanks to DPP support. All of this advances quality education across the city.

Education is essential not only to creating healthy and productive lives, but a healthy economy and vibrant community as well. Studies continue to show that adults who received a quality preschool experience as children:

- are more likely to continue their education beyond high school;
- tend to have higher incomes and
- are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system than those with similar backgrounds who did not attend quality preschool.

With that in mind, we are confident that DPP will positively impact Denver’s economic landscape for years and even decades to come. Quality preschool is a wise investment – for children, families and communities as a whole. By supporting DPP, you are helping to shape the future of our city.

With the steadfast support of parents, providers, elected officials, board members, advisors, voters and community leaders, DPP is now the third-highest enrolled preschool program in the country. We are collaborating more than ever and are gearing up to co-host the first-ever Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference in April, 2011. With the support of three other early childhood professional organizations and the foundation community, we are creating an exceptional learning opportunity for DPP providers and early childhood professionals across the state. Not only are we establishing a national model for quality preschool programs; we are making history.

The exciting developments of 2010 and your continued support have made this program a solid and growing success story. We hope that you will continue to join us in 2011 as we endeavor to improve the quality of life for Denver’s children and their families.

Yours in service,

John Plotkin
DPP BOARD CHAIR

Eileen Piper
DPP ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GREETINGS DPP PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

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DPP BOARD CHAIR

Eileen Piper
DPP ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
The Denver Preschool Program faced many challenges in 2010. While economists say the recession is over, they also say the recovery will be slow – including here in Colorado. DPP is not immune from these larger economic realities; however, we have made the tough choices necessary to ensure the continued financial strength of the program.

DPP’s board and staff focused their energy on continuing to implement a transparent, sustainable financial model in 2010. By collaborating with our partners, providers and Board of Advisors, DPP is moving toward a more predictable financial model. Although many of the financial decisions confronted by the DPP community involved difficult choices, our knowledge of Denver’s preschool demographics and key program metrics ensure that DPP will be able to provide stable funding for tuition credits to families and quality improvement grants to DPP providers, despite any future fluctuations in the economy.

DPP will continue to build financial strength going forward, without sacrificing the quality that is so important to all DPP families, providers and partners.

DPP is dedicated to providing quality education to Denver’s children. That is why 80% of DPP’s budget is allocated to tuition credits for Denver families and quality improvements grants to preschool providers. DPP’s number one investment is in the children.
DPP enrolled its 150th provider into the program during the 2009-2010 program year. Since then DPP has continued to grow. There are currently 162 providers, operating at 269 sites with 583 quality DPP classrooms. According to Qualistar Colorado, almost 79 percent of preschool providers that are eligible to enroll in the DPP have done so.

“Providers have always known the value of quality early childhood education,” says Quality Improvement Resource Coordinator Nicole Riehl of Qualistar Colorado. “But they also see the value that DPP brings to their programs in terms of professional development, grants for infrastructure, capital improvements and other accreditation benefits. They’re not only staying with the program, they’re able to contribute directly to the long-term advancement of this city.”
DPP is dedicated to serving all children in Denver. These students come from every race, zip code, income level and family size represented in the broader Denver community.
IN 2010, DPP COLLABORATED WITH THE DENVER OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DOCA), KAPLAN EARLY LEARNING COMPANY AND THE PITON FOUNDATION TO PRESENT THE SECOND ANNUAL PRESCHOOL ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER. THIS CITYWIDE BOOK CLUB, MODELED AFTER THE ADULT PROGRAM, REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WHILE ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO READ WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

Preschool providers played an integral role in selecting the featured book, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle. Each DPP site received a copy of the book, which was made possible in part by the generous support of Kaplan Early Learning Company and the Piton Foundation. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science hosted the first reading with then-Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, who read the book to several DPP classes. The project spanned two weeks, with readings throughout the city including stops at the Denver Botanic Gardens, the Tattered Cover bookstore, Hadley Library and the Children’s Museum of Denver. The children’s classic also was read at three preschool provider locations (Early Success Academy, Denver Child Care Center and Bright Horizons Montessori at the Marinal), with bilingual readings offered at sites with large numbers of Spanish-speaking children.

For the closing event, DPP provided a theatrical twist, which included University of Denver students from the Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theater. The actors engaged young preschoolers in the audience to help bring the book to life with a dramatic interpretation during readings.

In addition to the theatrical partners, celebrity readers from the local media, sports industry and Denver’s multicultural community read the book at eight locations throughout the city. Some of the special guest readers included:

- EDUARDO ARNAL, Mexican Consulate of Denver
- LUIS CANELA, Univision
- FERNANDO SERGIO FERRUFINO, KBNO Radio
- BAZI KANANI, 9NEWS
- JAYSON LUBER, Denver’s 7
- THERESA MARCHETTA, Denver’s 7
- GLORIA NEAL, CBS4
- REGGIE RIVERS, Author and Former Denver Bronco
- TARHONDA THOMAS, 9NEWS
- ANNE TRUJILLO, Denver’s 7
- JENNIFER ZEPPELIN, CBS4
On April 14, 2010, DPP hosted the third annual Provider Recognition Breakfast at the Denver Athletic Club. DPP strives to support the tireless efforts of preschool providers and recognize the contributions they make to the program and the impact they have on the lives of children and families throughout Denver. It is through their commitment to high literacy standards, accountability, innovative teaching methods and qualified instructors that DPP continues to set the standard for quality preschool and early childhood education.

With more than 100 educators, stakeholders and other early childhood education advocates in attendance, DPP recognized the work of the more than 150 providers enrolled in the program as well as five preschools, in particular, for recently earning the highest quality rating from Qualistar.

Qualistar awards points to providers based on the learning environment witnessed in a visit, family participation in questionnaires about the program, level of professional development and work experience, adult-to-child ratios and accreditation by a nationally recognized early childhood organization. Four stars is the highest Qualistar rating.

DPP’S FOUR-STAR PROVIDERS INCLUDED:

GOLDRICK, which provides developmentally appropriate full-day and half-day preschool classes for four-year-old children in Denver.

MONTESORRI CHILDREN’S VILLAGE (MCV), a preschool for children, ages three to six year olds. MCV offers Spanish and sign language instruction during Montessori work time, employs field trips to local parks on a nearly daily basis, and places an emphasis on learning about and practicing environmentally green activities.

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT EARLY LEARNING CENTER, which houses a therapeutic and a traditional preschool as well as wrap-around services for children ages three to six.

PADDINGTON STATION, a preschool community where children, ages 16 months to five years old, experience the world through exploration and discovery.

STEELE COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL, which was founded in 1982 by a group of parents interested in developing a cooperative preschool program for children ages two through five.
On the Move

DPP KICKED OFF THE 2010 SCHOOL YEAR IN A NEW OFFICE SPACE LOCATED IN DENVER’S HISTORIC FIVE POINTS NEIGHBORHOOD. THE NEW OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 305 PARK AVENUE WEST IN DENVER HOUSING AUTHORITY’S (DHA) BENEDICT PARK PLACE BUILDING.

DPP and the Urban Land Conservancy (ULC) joined together as co-tenants in this office space as part of a new Denver Shared Space Project piloted by the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, ULC and Piton Foundation. This shared-space model is gaining momentum with non-profits because it helps create an efficient use of working space and shared resources.

According to Ismael Guerrero, DHA’s Executive Director, “We are excited to have ULC and DPP as new neighbors at Benedict Park Place. Along with other new families moving in, they represent part of the transformation of this neighborhood into a healthy and vibrant community.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>A Busy Child Preschool</td>
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<td>A Child's Treasure Inc.</td>
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<td>A Plus Kids</td>
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2010 Provider List

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Valdez
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Valverde
Denver Public Schools (DPS)
Walter
Denver Public Schools (DPS)
Westerly Creek
Denver Public Schools (DPS)
Whittier
Dreamers Day Camp
Emmanuel Methodist Preschool
Escuela Tiabetelco Circulo
Montessori
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
Future Leaders Childcare Center
Gladys Campbell
Great Heights Child Care
Growing Butterflies & Beyond Childcare
La Petite Academy Inc
Larks Preschool
Lil’ People Learning Center
Little Angel’s Child Care
Little Angels Daycare
Little Friends Learning Center
Little Giants Learning Center
Hope Center, Inc.
Inner City School
Inspire Preschool
Kingdom Learning Academy
Knowledge Beginnings
La Petite Academy Inc
Larks Preschool
Lil’ People Learning Center
Little Angel’s Child Care
Little Angels Daycare
Little Friends Learning Center
Little Giants Learning Center
Little Saints Daycare and
Learning Center
Los Angelitos de Ana
Martin School of Early Education
Mile High Montessori Edna
Oliver Early Learning Center
Mile High Montessori Lowry
Montessori
Mile High Montessori North
East Child Care Center
Mile High Montessori Rude Park
Early Learning Center
Mile High Montessori Sun Valley
Early Learning Center
Mile High Montessori Westwood
Early Learning Center
Mi Escuelita
Monarch Montessori
Montessori Academy of
Colorado
Montessori Children’s House
Montessori Children’s Village
Montessori School of
Washington Park
Montview Preschool
Morning Star
Mountain View Child Care Center
MSCD Early Family Literacy @
Munroe
Nana’s Playland
Nellie’s Daycare Home
Nyece’s Childcare
Paddington Station
Park Hill Adventure
Park Hill United Methodist
Church Children’s Center
Parzival Shield Waldorf
Preschool/Kindergarten
Pioneer Charter School
Play and Learn
Primrose School of Stapleton
Rainbow Child Day Care
Raquel’s Rascals
Real Kids, Inc.
Renaissance Children’s Center
Robert E Loup Jewish
Community Center
Rocky Mountain SER Centro de
Ninos
Rocky Mountain SER Elaine
Jackson Head Start
Rocky Mountain SER Quigg
Newton Center
Schlessman YMCA Child Care
Center
Sewall at CEE
Sewall at Doull
Sewall CDC
Small World Child Care and
Preschool
Southwest YMCA Preschool
St Andrew Lutheran School/Child
Care
St James Preschool
St Johns Lutheran Church
Steele Cooperative Preschool
Stepping Stone Learning Center
Sunshine Academy, LLC
Temple Emanuel Preschool and
Kindergarten
The Children’s House of
Stapleton, LLC
The Children’s College CCD
The Cottage / Cherry Creek
Early Childhood
The Dalton Gang
The Denver Athletic Club
Children’s Center
The Golden Triangle Learning Center
The Little Rascals
The Rise School
The Sunshine House @ CSU
Thomas/Lakewood Learning
Threats Childcare Center
Three Bears Learning Center
Tiny Town Academy

E & R Cannon Child Care Center
Early Excellence at Wyatt
Early Success Academy
El Mundo Feliz
E & R Cannon Child Care Center
Early Excellence at Wyatt
Early Success Academy
El Mondo Feliz
Emmanuel Methodist Preschool
Escuela Tiabetelco Circulo
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Primrose School of Stapleton
Rainbow Child Day Care
Raquel’s Rascals
Real Kids, Inc.
Renaissance Children’s Center
Robert E Loup Jewish
Community Center
Rocky Mountain SER Centro de
Ninos
Rocky Mountain SER Elaine
Jackson Head Start
Rocky Mountain SER Quigg
Newton Center
Schlessman YMCA Child Care
Center
Sewall at CEE
Sewall at Doull
Sewall CDC
Small World Child Care and
Preschool
Southwest YMCA Preschool
St Andrew Lutheran School/Child
Care
St James Preschool
St Johns Lutheran Church
Steele Cooperative Preschool
Stepping Stone Learning Center
Sunshine Academy, LLC
Temple Emanuel Preschool and
Kindergarten
The Children’s House of
Stapleton, LLC
The Children’s College CCD
The Cottage / Cherry Creek
Early Childhood
The Dalton Gang
The Denver Athletic Club
Children’s Center
The Golden Triangle Learning Center
The Little Rascals
The Rise School
The Sunshine House @ CSU
Thomas/Lakewood Learning
Threats Childcare Center
Three Bears Learning Center
Tiny Town Academy
2010 Provider List

CONTINUED

Treasureland Preschool
Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Learning Center
World of Children

University Children's Center
Young Enthusiastic Scholars
Yours & Our Little Love

Venture for Success
Volunteers of America Bright Stars Head Start
Volunteers of America Rainbow Head Start
Volunteers of America Rainbow House Childcare

Warren Village
Washington Park UMC Preschool
Washington Street Community Center

Wee Villagers Child Development Home Center
Westminster Learning Center

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DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
305 Park Avenue West, Suite B, Denver, CO 80205
Phone: 303.595.4DPP | Fax: 720.287.5063 | www.dpp.org