

Getting Started

How to choose the right preschool.



How do you know where to begin?

Start by considering what you know about your child and where they will thrive. Denver Preschool Program partners with over 260 preschools across Denver and nearby communities, offering a wide range of options, including family childcare homes, center-based programs, and preschools within Denver Public Schools. All partner preschools are licensed and go through a thorough quality rating process. If your child is in their final year of preschool before kindergarten and lives in Denver, they are eligible for tuition support through DPP, and we will pay your provider directly on your behalf, reducing your monthly costs.

DPP Tuition Support can be combined with Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) as long as your provider participates in both programs.

Learn more about Colorado UPK and find participating providers at upk.colorado.gov.

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



First Impressions Matter



Notes

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.
