



*A Great Place For Your Child, Yourself,  
Our Community*

**Denver Cooperative Preschool**

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*pioneering play since 1960*

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***A Great Place  
For...***

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# Your Child

Walking through our doors, you'll know you have entered a special place. Our well-equipped, age-appropriate classrooms bubble with excitement and fun. You'll find children busy digging in sand tables, dressing up in costumes and role-playing, enjoying a story with a teacher or helping parent, building with blocks, creating colorful art

pieces, and singing and dancing. Our preschool day incorporates a balance of different experiences: self-initiated and guided, group and individual, active and quiet, fine and gross-motor. Denver Cooperative Preschool (DCP) is child centered with a low staff-to-child ratio. At our school, each child receives individual attention, care and a fun introduction to learning.

# Yourself

Based on the knowledge that parents who are actively involved in their children's learning experience are rewarded with children who love to learn, the DCP community is founded on active participation from all members. Parents enrich the preschool program by lending their special talents and abilities, while finding their own lives enriched by the connections they make with the children, families, and staff at the school.

Whether it's through working on committee projects, assisting in the

classroom, or just chatting while watching the children on the playground after class, DCP is a place where lasting friendships are made.

All parents have a variety of opportunities to connect with others in the DCP community through social, educational and organized events. Some enriching and fun activities planned throughout the year for DCP parents may include: class socials, our Annual Auction, Dad's Poker Night, Mom's Night Out and the All-School Picnic.

# Our Community

Denver Cooperative Preschool was founded in 1960 by a group of parents. It is a non-denominational, non-profit school owned by the member families. We offer the community opportunities to participate in parent education programs and to

volunteer. There is an active advisory board made up of community members who share our vision of early childhood education. A few of our social events are open to the community as well.



*JOIN IN THE EXPLORATION OF LIFE, THE  
QUEST FOR UNDERSTANDING AND THE  
JOURNEY TO WISDOM*



*PARENTS ARE KEY TO A CHILD'S UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT*

## Philosophy

DCP is a play-based, parent cooperative preschool. The joy, instinctive sense of wonder and delight that play brings validates it as the most central, natural and important aspect of childhood. Believing in a play-based philosophy is simply accepting that children naturally engage in and enjoy play as a means of learning on their terms and at their own pace.

Our job as teachers and parents is to provide a safe, nurturing environment with many developmentally appropriate activities and

opportunities for children to creatively explore and learn through play.

The way children interact within DCP classroom environments is child-directed, as is the amount of time they spend on any given activity. A basic routine for the class gives reassuring structure and allows children to anticipate what is next. Teachers' expertise is used in setting up the classroom and interacting with the children as they play to introduce concepts, expand their play and help them acquire tangible skills.

## Staff

We are proud of the exceptional director and teachers who are part of our DCP community. They delight in every discovery the children make and have a deep commitment to each student's growth and well-being. Our full time director is here to assist families, oversee day-to-day operations, ensure the quality of the program offerings, provide staff development, and work closely with the school's Governing Board to guarantee the high quality of the programming and longevity of DCP.

With an average of 10 years of experience in early childhood education, our teachers are adept at facilitating a developmentally appropriate environment for exploration and play. Their dedication to DCP is exemplified through the longevity of their involvement. DCP supports ongoing professional development of all staff members by providing educational allowances for college courses, two paid training days per year and monthly staff development meetings.

## Admissions

Class placement is determined by a lottery held in late January and early February for admission the following September. Current students, siblings and alumni are given priority with room for new families in every age category.

Denver Cooperative Preschool does not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, age, national origin, gender identity, ethnicity, color, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, economic or military status in either the hiring of employees or the inclusion of members in the school. Also, every reasonable effort is made to incorporate children with special needs into our classrooms.

Confidential scholarships and tuition

assistance are available based on family need. A significant amount of revenue raised through DCP fundraising events is set aside for this type of assistance. We also utilize personal and corporate donations for scholarships when available.

Denver Cooperative Preschool is also part of the **Denver Preschool Program**, which provides a monthly tuition credit to qualified families who have a child in his or her last year of preschool before being age eligible for kindergarten. To participate in this program, a school must embrace excellence in education, utilize developmentally appropriate practices, and achieve a Qualistar rating. For more details, visit [www.dpp.org](http://www.dpp.org) and [www.Qualistar.org](http://www.Qualistar.org).

# See For Yourself

We want to share our wonderful school with all who are interested. We welcome visitors and encourage them to observe one or all of the classes that we offer. Please contact us at 303-777-6867 to arrange a time to visit on your own or with your child.

Come join us for a day of fun and discovery to see if you love the idea of

your child attending a school that focuses on the natural abilities of childhood.

We are located at 480 Marion Street in Denver, Colorado. You are also welcome to visit us online at [www.denvercooperativepreschool.org](http://www.denvercooperativepreschool.org).



*A CHILD'S EARLY EXPERIENCE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR ADULT POTENTIAL*

# Classes

Morning and afternoon programs are offered for children ages 15 months through 5 years. Each class has at least two paid staff members, working as co-teachers, in addition to a parent helper. Our school is licensed through the State of Colorado. Classes are held September through May, following Denver Public Schools' calendar. Additional summer camp opportunities are also offered for children who are at least 3 years old.

## CLASS OFFERINGS

**Parent-Tot:** *This class is open to children who are 15 months to 23 months when the school year starts. Young children attend with a parent and are gently introduced to separation for a portion of the class. The parent-tot program is a great way for a child to enter DCP, as well as the preschool environment, and is one of the few such programs offered in the Denver area.*

**2/3 Year-Old:** *This class is open to children who are 2 years old when the school year starts. The class is focused on developing cooperative play in a fun learning environment and helping children to feel secure and confident in the classroom setting.*

**3/4 Year-Old:** *This class is open to children who are 3 years old when the school year starts. The class is focused on social development with peers in an encouraging atmosphere. On an ongoing basis, colors, letters, numbers, names, shapes and manners are covered through play.*

**Pre-Kindergarten:** *This class is open to children who are 4 years old when the school year starts. The class is focused on kindergarten readiness through self-directed play. It fosters pre-reading and math skills, introductory science concepts and creativity. Our well-equipped learning centers are designed to expand childhood play, building a strong foundation for future academic achievement. In addition, children begin to understand their own feelings and those of others, while developing the skills to express them in a socially acceptable manner. By the end of the year, children are familiar with a variety of literary skills, math concepts, writing skills and world awareness.*

**All of our classes include activities in outdoor play, art, dramatic play and open play.**

*PLAY IS THE ESSENTIAL LEARNING PROCESS  
OF A CHILD*

# Enrichment Programs

In addition to our core class offerings, DCP also offers several enrichment opportunities to enhance your child's preschool experience.

**Art:** *A specialized art teacher offers enhanced creative experience on a monthly basis to supplement our day-to-day art activities.*

**Music:** *While music, singing and movement are part of the daily class experience, a specialized music teacher provides weekly musical enrichment for the 2/3 Year Old through Pre-K classes.*

**Spanish:** *A specialized bilingual teacher provides monthly exposure to basic Spanish vocabulary for the 2/3 Year Old through Pre-K classes.*

**Lunch Bunch:** *This program takes place from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and gives children the opportunity to socialize with children from other classes. A limited number of spots are available to both morning and afternoon students up to two days per week.*

**Free Form Friday:** *This is available to Pre-K students and is a time for the children to explore beyond the curriculum taught during the regular Pre-K class. It focuses on topics such as art, movement, language and outdoor experiences and does not require a parent helper. It's available on Fridays from 9:00 am - 11:30 am.*

**Lunch 'n' Learn:** *This is an extension of Lunch Bunch and allows students to have the fun of lunch bunch with the opportunity for additional enrichment learning experiences. Children eat lunch with their teachers in their classrooms. This program takes place from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm and is available for 3/4 students in the Tuesday/Thursday class. It is also available to Pre-K students on Fridays if they are enrolled in Free Form Friday.*





*GUIDING CHILDREN ON THE  
ADVENTURE OF SELF-DISCOVERY  
THROUGH PLAY*



## Vision & Mission

Denver Cooperative Preschool envisions an active society where children and adults join in the exploration of life, the quest for understanding and the journey to wisdom. We believe that:

• *A child's early experience is the foundation for adult potential.*

• *Parents are the key to a child's unique development.*

• *Play is essential in the learning process of a child.*

Our mission is to guide young children on the adventure of self-discovery through play.

## Your Involvement

Being a member of the cooperative means assisting in the classroom on a rotating basis, serving on at least one committee or on the Governing Board, participating in school

fundraising activities, attending the all-parent meetings (generally 1-2 per year), and taking part in classroom clean-ups (1 per child per year, with a maximum of 2).

## Your Choice

Choosing a preschool is a very personal and important decision. In thinking about the play-based philosophy at DCP, you may also want to consider what some of the experts are saying.

Psychologist Elena Bodrova of the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) acknowledges, "multiple benefits of this type of supported play- improved language and imagination, as well as

self-regulation." And, according to McREL researcher Cynthia Bjork, "Research shows that a lack of play is detrimental. Learning through play is most natural for children" and play-based learning is "best for all children."

We embrace this philosophy at DCP and provide experiences for children to continually explore and learn through play.