



# Washington Park

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Hello Preschool families!

I know this time of year can get stressful and confusing as you start your search for a Kindergarten for your child. In addition to the information you will get from your child's teacher, I wanted to put together some information for you to assist you in your journey. I have gathered together a list of tour dates and Open House dates for schools, private and public around this neighborhood. I have a very comprehensive list of all the schools in Denver, both DPS, Charter and Independent that I can share with you as well if you don't see the school you are interested in on this list. I plan to put together a coffee chat information session in early December for people to talk more about specific schools and get some perspective from current families in those schools. I will also have more specific information and links to how to navigate the DPS choice system. The first round of choice is happening between February 1<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, one month later than it was in years prior. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need more guidance. I am a great resource for you to use in addition to your child's teachers.

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## ***Questions to think about before you visit a school:***

What does my child need out of a school? (This could be about your child's learning style, social and emotional development, and strengths and weaknesses)

What does my family need in a school? (This includes financial fit, sibling fit, the community feeling, distance from your home, hours offered)

What was my own school experience like in elementary school? Do I want something similar or different for my child?

## ***Questions to think about during your school visit:***

What are my first impressions of the school grounds and building?

How do I feel when I enter the building? Does it feel warm and inviting? Is the office staff warm and inviting?

What types of projects and art are on the walls?

What types of technology do they use? How often?

What type of environment is the classroom set-up? Are there a variety of materials that kids can access? Are there centers? Plants? Books?

What is the ratio? Is it a multi-age classroom? How many teachers are there in each classroom?

Do the children seem happy? Engaged?

What types of activities happen outside of the classroom? Art? PE? Music? How often?

Are there other parents around helping in the classrooms? Are parents welcome? Is there a community gathering place?

What are some of the school's traditions?

How does the school handle conflict resolution? Is it punitive or positive?

Do I feel like this is a place I can see my child?

How does the school handle special populations (second language learners, special education, gifted)?