

## WHAT IS THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (CPP)?

The Durango School District has participated in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) since 1995. It is funded by the state legislature under the School Finance Act with the intent of serving children who may be at risk for being unsuccessful in kindergarten by providing them with high quality educational experiences in the year prior to kindergarten. This year the legislature is funding 20,160 slots statewide for CPP, and the Durango School District is being funded for 164 slots for the 2015-2016 school year.

Eligibility for your child's acceptance into CPP is based on the Eligibility Checklist which you complete and a screening done with your child. Acceptance of your child will provide you with tuition assistance for the preschool. A child cannot be turned down for one location and go to another school to gain a slot. CPP is administered through the Durango School District which oversees the whole program. Attendance is required throughout the year to maintain the slot.

We have a District CPP Council made up of teachers, collaborators, parents, and other community members who recommends policies and procedures to the School District regarding the CPP. If you would like to volunteer to be on the District Council, please let the CPP Administrator know. We meet 6 times during the school year on an agreed upon time.

Our Council has set the following guidelines for each center:

- A maximum of 16 children per classroom with an adult/child ratio of one to eight
- At least two Individual Learning Plans for each child which state the goals identified by the teacher and parent in social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development.
- In addition to the Colorado Quality Standards, each site will use the Creative Curriculum in the CPP classrooms.

The quality of our programs is always the most important focus for the CPP sites. Understanding of the importance of high quality early learning experiences for children drove the legislature to create this program and supports us as we look at the needs of all our children. We are required to report on the following components:

- How we meet the Colorado Quality Standards for Early Childhood Care and Education
- Continuing training and staff development
- How we support and encourage parental involvement and how parents feel about our programs
- Nutrition, immunizations, and health and dental care

Currently, Durango School District 9-R has CPP sites at Durango Early Learning Center, Fort Lewis College's Campbell Center, Animas Valley Preschool, Florida Mesa Preschool, Fort Lewis Mesa Preschool, Needham Preschool, Park Preschool, Riverview Preschool, and Sunnyside Preschool. We also contract with Tri-County Head Start Programs at Florida Mesa Elementary, Needham Elementary, Park Elementary, and the Roberta Shirley Center.

If you have any questions about CPP or your family's participation in the program, please call the Supervisor of Early Childhood Programs, Libby Culver, at 247-5411, ext. 1468.