



Project Enlightenment
Office of Early Learning

501 South Boylan Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27603
wcpss.net/projectenlightenment

tel: (919) 856-7774
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January 26, 2023

Dear Interested Parent:

Thank you for your interest in the Demonstration Preschool (DPS) program at Project Enlightenment. Enclosed with this letter is an overview of the DPS program and an application form.

We will be holding three DPS Observation options this year. Please **choose one date** that is most convenient for you:

The observations will occur on:

- Tuesday, February 7 from 8:45-10:15 a.m.
- Thursday, February 16 from 8:45-10:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 22 from 8:45-10:15 a.m.

If an observation is cancelled due to inclement weather, you will have an opportunity to sign up for another date.

During the observation time, we will share information about our program, and observe the DPS "in action" from the DPS Observation Booth. Following the observation, we will have time for any questions you may have. Please make every effort to be here by 8:45 AM so we will have the entire time to share our program with you.

DPS applications will be accepted beginning January 30, 2023. Also, on this date we will begin making reservations for attendance at the observation times. Please contact the office staff at (919-856-7774) to make a reservation. We will be accepting applications through February 28, 2023 and make notifications about admissions by March 24, 2023.

We are looking forward to sharing our program with you on February 7, February 16, or February 22. **Please make childcare arrangements for your child (ren) during the observation time you choose.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nida
Coordinator of Demonstration Classrooms



Project Enlightenment Demonstration Preschool Overview

The Demonstration Preschool (DPS) at Project Enlightenment is an inclusive therapeutic program designed for four-year-old children living in Wake County who are not yet kindergarten eligible. It is a five-star classroom licensed through Division of Child Development and Early Education within the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The program meets exceptional benchmarks regarding early childhood programming and environment.

DPS GOAL: The DPS goal is to foster each child's love of learning through play-based instruction while encouraging the development of skills and abilities. The areas of social, emotional, cognitive, language and motor development are promoted through individualized, informed instruction. The Creative Curriculum is the primary curriculum used "to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive and enthusiastic learners by actively exploring their environment." (*from the Creative Curriculum Overview, 2022*). This instructional focus that children "learn by doing" is based on early learning standards for North Carolina preschoolers, adopted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

STAFF: The professional staff consists of a preschool coordinator, teacher, and teacher's assistant. University interns also participate in the program to learn about working with young children.

CHILDREN: The classroom currently serves fifteen children. Children who are eligible for kindergarten cannot be considered for DPS placement. If a child is receiving services through the Wake County Public School System Preschool Services and has a current IEP, the services can continue with a DPS placement. However, the DPS is not an appropriate placement if a half-day or full-day special education classroom is recommended in the IEP.

CLASSROOM: The classroom environment is organized into learning centers such as: the blocks and building center, pretend play, the art center, music, a science and discovery center and a literacy center. Learning centers are set-up to encourage independent, hands-on exploration, and intentional play. Centers are carefully planned to provide opportunities for children to practice and develop skills in the way they learn as young children. The materials in learning centers are routinely changed according to the children's interest and the topics of study.

The schedule typically includes small group table-top activity time, a morning meeting, free play in learning centers, clean-up, snack & lunch, outdoor play time or movement indoors and a literacy circle time.

PARENT-TEACHER PARTNERSHIP: A strong parent-teacher partnership is an integral aspect of the DPS program. The classroom has an observation booth and parents are encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled observations of the classroom. Guided Observations were cancelled due to COVID, but we are hopeful they may occur in the next school year.

Parents are expected to *volunteer in the classroom, attend parent-teacher conferences, and participate in Family School Partnership Day activities which occur about 8 times a year. **Parents must go through the Wake County Public School System process and register as a volunteer. Parents can receive assistance with the registration process in the Parent Teacher Resource Center.*

Parent counseling is available and free of charge. Parent workshops occur throughout the year and are available for a nominal fee through the Project Enlightenment Parent Workshop series.

OBSERVATIONS: In addition to helping children and their families, the DPS is designed to demonstrate effective research based best practices and activities. Teachers, early childhood educators, care providers and others interested in young children can schedule a guided observation of the classroom and of the teachers at work. An observation booth is available for this purpose. As noted earlier, all observations were cancelled due to COVID, but we are hopeful they may resume in the next school year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The following is a list of additional information that you may find useful.

- ◆ The DPS is funded by the Wake County Public School System and supported by tuition fees.
- ◆ Monthly tuition fee is \$250. Tuition assistance is available. Please indicate on the application if this is needed.
- ◆ Hours are currently 8:30-12:30 Monday through Friday.
- ◆ **Children must be four years old on or before August 31st of the year they are entering.**
- ◆ Applications are available in January of each year.

2023-2024 BEGINNING OF SCHOOL INFORMATION: If your child receives placement in the DPS for the following school year, the teacher will share the following information in greater detail with you prior to the beginning of school.

1. DPS Parent Handbook
2. Paperwork, Forms & Surveys
3. WCPSS Traditional School Calendar, Project Enlightenment Calendar, Family School Partnership, Parent Conference Dates, Inclement Weather Plan
4. DPS Bell Schedule/ Arrival & Dismissal Times
5. Daily schedule including routines & mealtimes
6. Special Activities Schedule including Story Time in the PTRC & Second Step
7. Home Visits and when they may occur
8. Staggered Entry Schedule
9. List of items & materials your child will need at school
10. Communication methods between school and home- Daily Folders, Teacher Email, Class Dojo
11. Information on curriculum and topics of study
12. Information on how each child's progress is monitored and how it is shared with parents
13. Illness & Medication Policy /Covid Precaution Policy
14. How to pay tuition/scholarship information

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**PROJECT ENLIGHTENMENT
DEMONSTRATION PRESCHOOL 2023-2024
APPLICATION**

Date of Application: _____

Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

Birth Date: _____ Gender: _____ Race: _____
Month Date Year

Child's Address: _____
Street Address City Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Employer: _____ Employer: _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Other children in the family:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Name of Current School</i>
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Has your child had previous group experience (preschool, child care, play groups)? Please list: _____

To help us learn a little about your child, please check the behaviors that describe your child at this time:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys a variety of play experiences (pretend games, free-play) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet/reserved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefers active play | <input type="checkbox"/> Can care for own daily needs (feed, toilet, dress) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to play alone | <input type="checkbox"/> Follows directions easily |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will join play after an initial warm-up time and/or observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to direct others in play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initiates play with other children | <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses wants, ideas and feelings with words |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Works/plays well independently | <input type="checkbox"/> Can separate easily from parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Makes transitions easily/ easily adapts to change | <input type="checkbox"/> Invites other children to play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active/outgoing | <input type="checkbox"/> Takes turns and shares |

Have you or your child had previous contact with Project Enlightenment? Yes No

If yes, please describe:

(over)

Does your child have any special physical, emotional or medical needs? If so, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns about your child's development or behavior? If so, please describe your concerns:

Has your child received any Early Intervention, private therapies, or Wake County Public School System Special Program Services (*e.g., speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, classroom support*)?

Yes No

If yes, please describe:

List any agency(ies) you have worked with:

1. _____

2. _____

If your child has had previous screenings, evaluations or relevant services, please attach written reports if available. If an IEP has been developed, please attach a copy.

Will you be requesting tuition assistance? Yes No

Are you applying for/interested in Title I or another Pre-Kindergarten program? : Yes No

How did you hear about the Demonstration Preschool Program: _____

Reason for Application/ How will your child and family benefit from the DPS? (*Use additional sheet if necessary.*)

Lined writing area consisting of 22 horizontal lines.

A \$10.00 application fee is due with this form. Please return to:

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