

The Early Word

February 2018



DPS EARLY EDUCATION UPDATES

Get to know an early educator...
(Each month you'll meet a few of our central staff members!)



Dr. Lisa Roy **Executive** **Director of** **Early** **Education**

I have almost 28 years of leadership experience in the field. I first started my experience in early education as a volunteer/employee with the Parent Education and Preschool Program (DPS) and as a Head Start parent. After graduating from college with a degree in speech communications and psychology, I started the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters at the Clayton Foundation. From there, I finished my Masters in School Counseling, ran Catholic Charities' Operation Jumpstart program, did technical assistance and training for Head Start (CDI), worked for Great Kids Head Start and then worked in philanthropy for 12 years supporting early education programs like the launch of the Denver Preschool Program. I finished a doctorate in education before taking on the role as the Executive Director.

My grandmother was a teacher so I had the best preschool education possible.

She was pretty strict so I had to recite a rhyme before eating breakfast, practice writing before lunch, and read before dinner but I had lots of time to learn through play. It was my responsibility to teach my younger siblings and cousins what I was learning - the old fashioned, one-school house approach. Needless to say, I also learned through teaching them to read and write.

I was overly prepared for Kindergarten academically but could have used some social emotional support in working with other children who were not related to me or younger than me. I spent time in the corner for being disruptive to the learning of other students. I could not understand why they could not answer questions automatically. I was bored and restless at times.

I was the only Spanish-speaking preschooler in my class and had a very limited English vocabulary. I was playing and running outside with fellow preschoolers and I said the following code-mixed sentence: "Espera, espera, I need to tie my zapato!" I couldn't understand why I received strange looks from them and no one waited for me since I spoke in perfect "English". My teacher shared this English developmental experience with my parents who tease me about it to this day...



José C. Paz **Director of Head Start**

I have 23 years in Early Education as a para, a teacher, a Head Start trainer and technical assistant, a resource development specialist, an assistant director & a director/manager.

DPS Early Education

BY THE NUMBERS: 2017



5000+

Children learning in ECE classrooms this year!



750+

ECE Teachers and Paras



350+

ECE Classrooms



90

Schools that house ECE programs



39

Central support staff



315+

Collective years of central staff early ed experience

Looking Ahead in 2018...

A summary of the Early Education Department Strategic Plan for January-May



How to Find Us:

In person: 9th Floor, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver CO 80203

On the phone: 720-423-2678, 720-423-2679 or 720-423-2676

On a computer: <http://earlyeducation.dpsk12.org/>

On social media: search for Facebook page "DPS Early Ed"