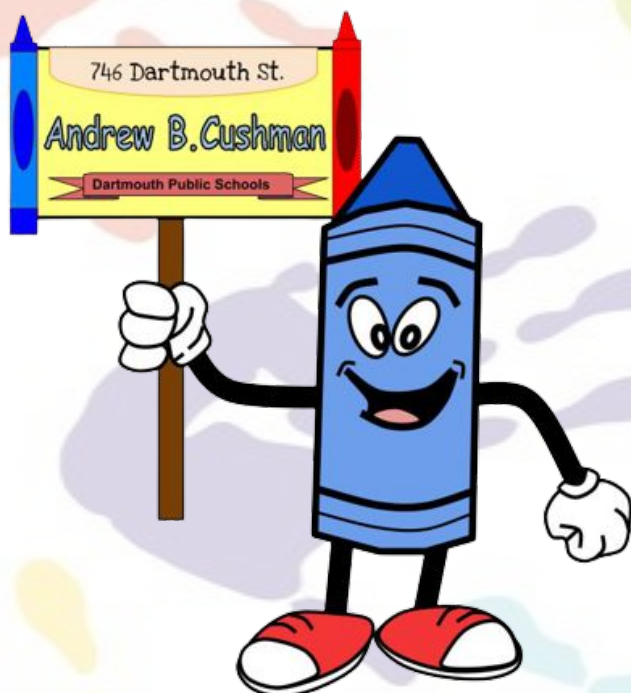


Welcome to the
Dartmouth Public Schools
Preschool Program Overview
2025-2026



George H. Potter Elementary School

Meet the **NEW** Director

2025:
Early Childhood Director for
Dartmouth Public Schools

2022-2025:
Special Education
Early Childhood Department
Speech Pathologist
at a neighboring district

2006-2022:
Speech Pathologist for PK-Grade 8



Stephanie Riccardi

Preschool Teachers



Ms. Steele



Ms. Ribbing



Ms. Alexander



Ms. Rotsky



Ms. Ouellette



Ms. Spicer



Ms. Callahan



Ms. Weaver



Ms. Greene,
Special Education Teacher
and Facilitator

Related Service Providers



Ms. Zembo, SLP



Ms. Genereux, SLP



Ms. Reis, SLP



Ms. Siravo, Nurse



Ms. Frick,
Social/Emotional
Learning



Ms. Collier, OT



Ms. Deus, OT



Dr. Hunt, PT

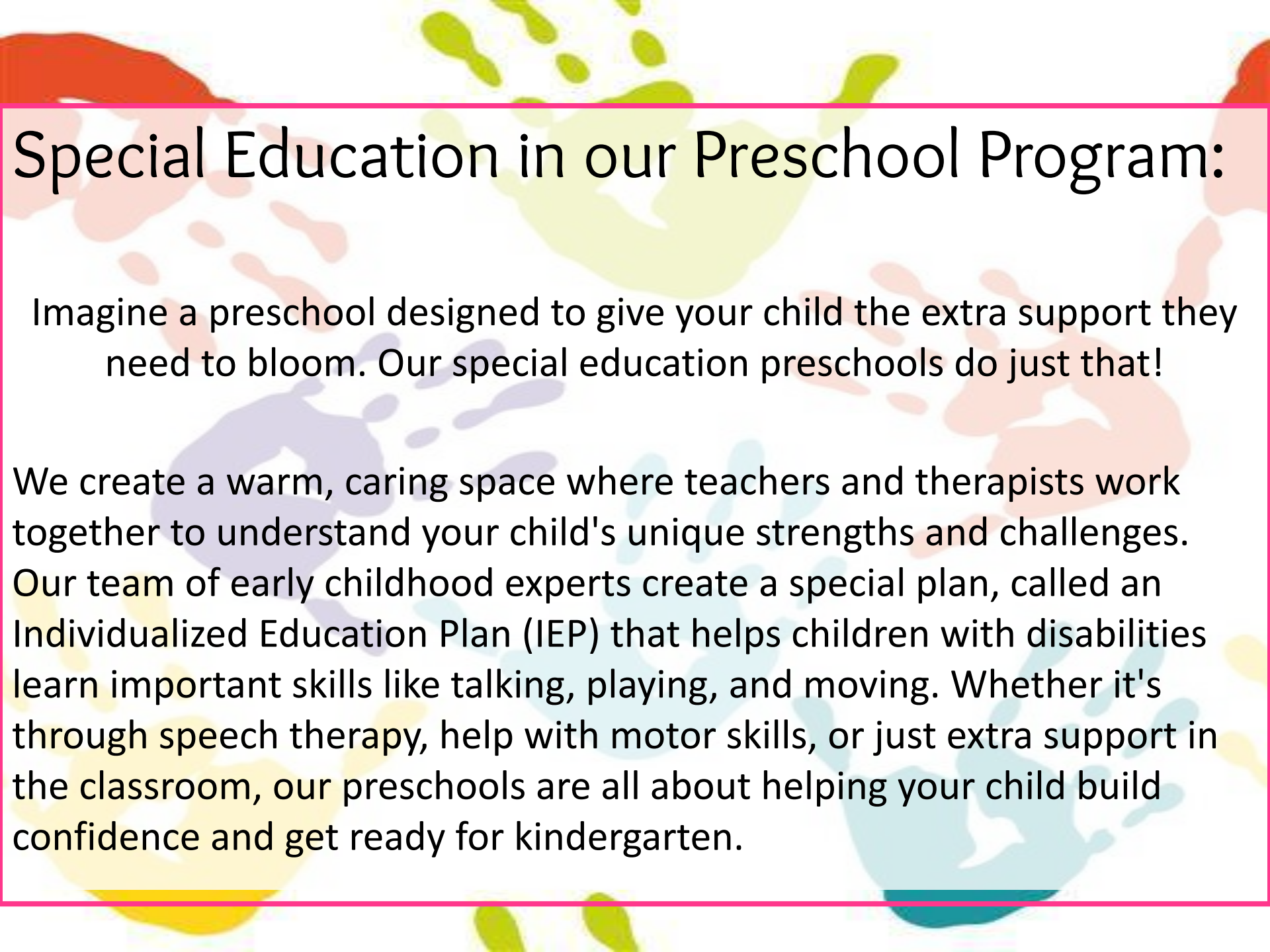
Understanding Inclusion

An inclusion preschool is one where children with and without disabilities learn within the same space. ALL children are seen as capable learners and valued contributors within the classroom environment.



Dartmouth preschools:

- All preschool classrooms are inclusive.
- Classrooms have 8 peers models and up to 7 students with multiple disabilities.



Special Education in our Preschool Program:

Imagine a preschool designed to give your child the extra support they need to bloom. Our special education preschools do just that!

We create a warm, caring space where teachers and therapists work together to understand your child's unique strengths and challenges. Our team of early childhood experts create a special plan, called an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that helps children with disabilities learn important skills like talking, playing, and moving. Whether it's through speech therapy, help with motor skills, or just extra support in the classroom, our preschools are all about helping your child build confidence and get ready for kindergarten.

Play Based Curriculum:

Play is far more than fun distraction; it's a critical avenue for your child's learning and development. Engaging in play-based activities cultivates their innate *curiosity*, encourages *exploration*, and fosters a genuine *enthusiasm for learning*.

Don't just take our word for it...

"Play is the highest form of research."

Albert Einstein

"Play is the work of childhood."

Jean Piaget

"Play is not a break from learning. It is endless, delightful, deep, engaging, practical learning."

Vince Gowmon

Daily Schedule:

Half Day Sessions:

Monday - Friday:

- **AM:** 9:00 - 11:25
Breakfast Offered
Snack from home
or
- **PM:** 1:00 - 3:25
Snack from home

3 year
olds

Full Day Sessions:

Monday - Friday:

- 9:05-3:05
- Breakfast and lunch offered to all students
- Snack from home
- Rest Time

4 year
olds

A Day in the Life of a Preschooler:

Arrival to School

Children are escorted by their parents to the drop off location. Staff will escort students from the doors to their classroom.

Large Group Circle Times

Circle times are an opportunity for the class to gather together as a whole and learn new concepts, play games, and engage in many different types of learning activities. Children learn to work together as a group.



Learning Centers

When children engage in different centers they are learning through play. Teachers plan meaningful activities to support their students' interests and learning.





Lunch

Every student is provided with a school lunch. Parents can also send in a lunchbox for their child. Monitors and teacher assistants help supervise lunch time.

Recess

Preschoolers have *three* opportunities for play. Recess is held on the school blacktop and field area of the playground.





Project Time

Each classroom participates in unique and fun projects to help promote creativity, fine motor skills, and following multi-step directions.

Story Time

Reading aloud to young children is the best way to promote a love of books, learning and pre-reading skills!



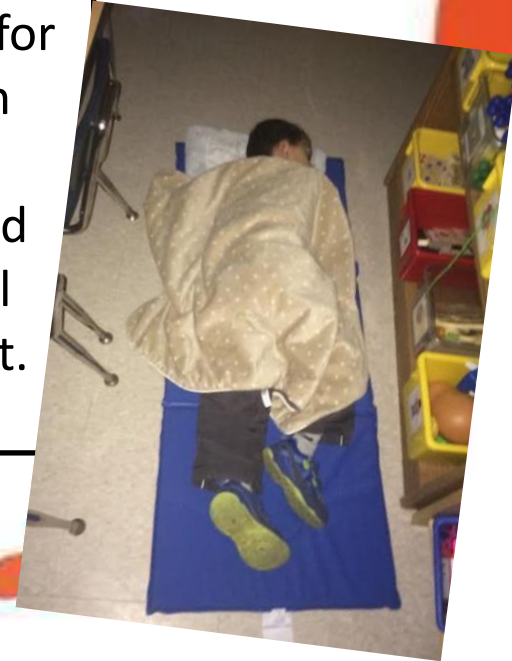


Snack Time

Each afternoon there is a snack time. Families supply a small snack and drink separate from their child's lunch.

Rest Time

Preschoolers rest for 45 minutes each day. All children have a designated mat with a small crib-sized blanket.



Dismissal

Families pick up their child from school staff in the designated location. Only designated persons are allowed to pick up, unless special arrangements have been made. Please be prepared to show proper identification.

Full Day Students take part in Specials:

Music



Art



Gym



Playground & Recess:

Preschoolers have many opportunities to go outside.

When children play outdoors they develop:

- Physical strength
- Coordination and balance
- Self-confidence and social skills

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Dartmouth schools refer to weather.com for accurate and consistent monitoring of forecasted weather.

Preschoolers will be playing outside if the weather feels 28* or warmer.



Breakfast and Lunch:

- Dartmouth Public Schools offers free, healthy meals every school day.
- Breakfast and Lunch menus are published on the DPS website.



My School MENUS



26

Lunch Entree

Chicken Patty on a Roll

Sweet Potato Cross
Cut Fries

Or

Cereal Variety Fun
Lunch

Chocolate Hummus &
Pretzel PowerPak

Fruit

Fruit Variety

Milk

1% Milk

What are some of the safety rules that are in place in our school?

- School doors are secured and monitored by staff.
- Children are dismissed to their parent/guardian. A child may be dismissed to someone else with written permission only. Appropriate identification must be shown to staff member.
- If students are dismissed during the school day, caregivers should notify the classroom teacher (if possible) and come to the main office through the front door. Your student will be brought to you at that time.
- Visitors/Volunteers must have a CORI on file, sign in, and wear a badge to authorize their presence in school.
- For safety purposes, parents are not allowed to walk their children to/from class. School staff are available should you need any assistance.

Parent-Teacher Communication:

Communication is the key between home and school!



School Based
Newsletter

- Parent-teacher conference days are currently scheduled on Early Release Days in December.
- Report cards are issued in January and in June to 4-year old students who will be entering Kindergarten the following year.
- You may always call, write or email your child's teacher to ask questions or to arrange for additional school or phone conferences.

District Calendar

DARTMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Academic Year 2025-2026 Calendar

Administrative Offices
8 Bush Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-997-3391

23 Days	AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025 <table><tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 8/25 Sept. Welcome/All Staff Orientation (8:30-3:00) 8/26 Professional Development (8:30-3:00) 8/27 First Day of School (All students) 8/29 No School (All students) 9/1 Labor Day - No School 9/17 Professional Development 1/2 Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					15 Days	FEBRUARY 2026 <table><tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr></table> 4 Professional Development 1/2 Day 16 Presidents' Day 16 - 20 Winter Recess - No School	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28														
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Early Release Days

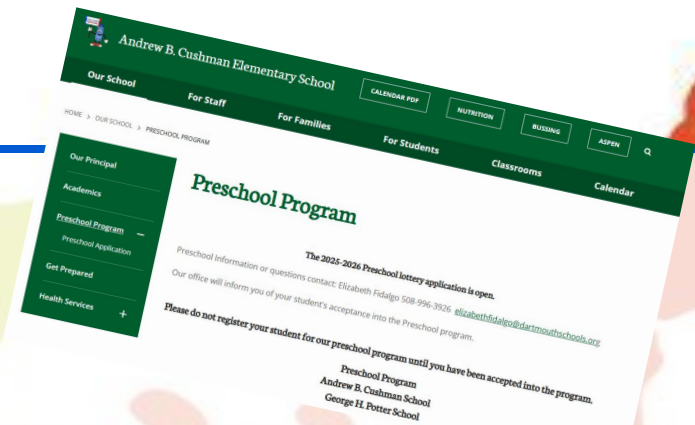
-No Preschool

Late Start due to weather

- No PM Preschool

Application and Lottery Process:

- The application window for the 2025-2026 school year is open from February 10 to March 21, 2025.
- Applications received during this time frame will be eligible for the lottery.
- Applications and instructions can be found on the district website: **cushman.dartmouth.school**
- Dartmouth Public School District utilizes the lottery system when the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats.



Keep in Mind...

- Parents will be notified by early April of the results of the lottery process and their child's acceptance into our preschool program or placement on the waiting list.
- If an application is not postmarked or received by March 21st, your child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list.
- All students will be offered a screening regardless of whether they are given a slot or are on the waiting list.
- Students placed on a previous year's waiting list are still required to apply each year. Placement on a previous year's waiting list does not affect the following year's lottery.

Screening Process:

- Once your application has been submitted and the lottery is completed, we will contact you to schedule a screening appointment for your child in May.
- Our Preschool screening is a brief measure of developmental readiness, fine motor, and speech/language skills.
- On the date of screening, your child will transition to a testing room with a teacher. In this room they will complete several play stations to determine their skills and eligibility.
- If through the screening process your child shows a possible delay in either speech/language, occupational therapy or preschool readiness, we may contact you to do a further evaluation in those areas.

Peer Partners should...

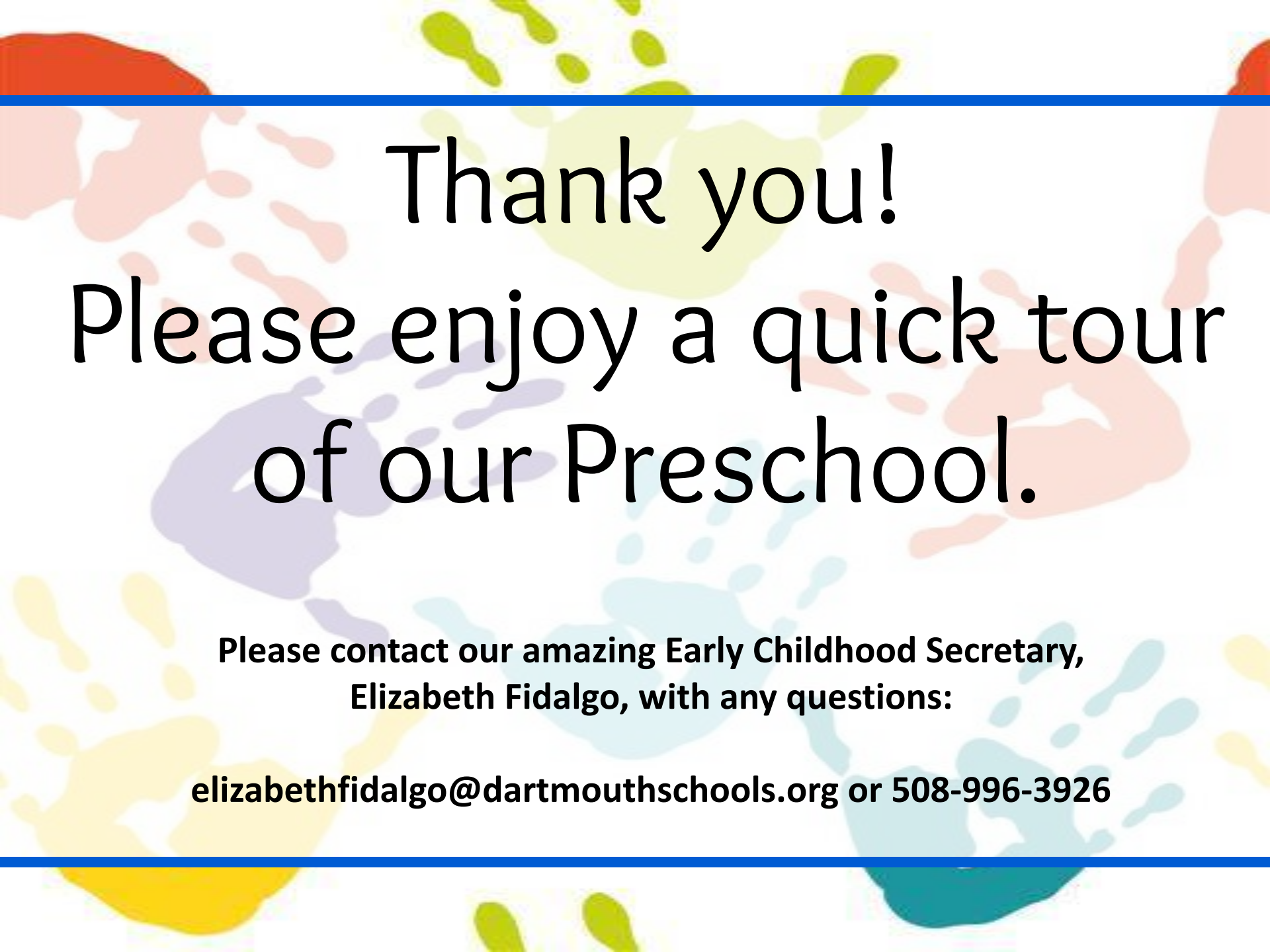
- be (mostly) potty trained.

We understand that potty training is a work in progress! Students are encouraged to bring a spare set of clothes (shoes included) to keep on hand in case of accidents.

- demonstrate developmentally appropriate play, language, and learning skills
- provide their own transportation arrangements for both drop off and pick up.

Tuition Information

Full Day Preschool	\$6, 000.00/year 10 payments of \$600
Half Day Preschool	\$2, 500/year 10 payments of \$250



Thank you!

Please enjoy a quick tour
of our Preschool.

**Please contact our amazing Early Childhood Secretary,
Elizabeth Fidalgo, with any questions:**

elizabethfidalgo@dartmouthschools.org or 508-996-3926
