Tuition and Fees
Monthly tuition and fees fund the programs at the AELC. Our current fee schedule can be found at www.ahec.edu/earlylearning. There are separate fees for summer camp that vary depending on field trips.

Students attending Metropolitan State University of Denver may qualify for a subsidy for tuition through a grant from the MSU Denver Student Affairs Board. Please inquire about this program at the front desk.

Faculty and staff are charged a bond fee of $61.68 per semester. You may speak with the assistant director for more information.

Enrolling Your Child
First-priority enrollment is given to students and secondly to the faculty and staff from the Auraria Campus community. Children from the Denver community are accepted on a space-available basis. We are happy to meet with you to discuss your child’s needs. Please call the AELC at (303) 556-3188 to arrange a tour.

Center Administration
Mary McCain, the AELC Director, has extensive early childhood education experience and has been with the center since 1994. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. An assistant director, program coordinator, and operations coordinator assist with management of the center.

Classroom Teachers
A supervising teacher, assistant teacher, and teacher’s aides staff each classroom. All supervising teachers have earned a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or a closely related field, or they are Director Qualified through the State of Colorado. The supervising kindergarten teacher is a fully licensed teacher by the Colorado Department of Education. Assistant teachers are Early Childhood Teacher Certified through the State of Colorado.

Parental Involvement
Our goal is to develop a partnership with parents to provide the best possible programs. We believe that by working together, as partners in education, we can foster your child’s positive attitude toward learning.

Parents are welcome to observe and participate in the children’s classroom activities at any time. Parent events and workshops are offered by the center throughout the year. The Auraria Parent Teacher Group (APTG) is an active partnership between the teachers and parents that meets monthly. Teachers e-mail weekly to keep parents up-to-date. We also have a Facebook page with pictures and posts about daily activities.
The Auraria Early Learning Center (AELC) provides programs for children 12-months and walking to 5-years-old, with a fully accredited kindergarten program and summer camp for children through age 8. The center serves students, faculty, and staff of the Community College of Denver (CCD), Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver), and the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC). On a space-available basis, the center also serves the Denver community. All of the AELC’s programs are fully licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services.

What You Will Discover at the AELC
- Highly qualified teachers, educational consultants, and support staff who are experts in the field of early childhood education
- Full- and part-time schedules with healthy meals and snacks included
- Individualized teaching with an emphasis on cultivating children’s sense of wonder and discovery
- Small classroom setting with a low child-to-teacher ratio
- Balanced, high-quality curriculum that introduces foundational subjects, including reading, math, science, and social studies
- Social-emotional development with opportunities for self-expression through language, art, and dramatic play

Private Kindergarten Program
Age: 5-years-old by October 1 of the academic year
- Our fully accredited kindergarten program prepares students for success in first grade and beyond. Children gain invaluable academic skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, fine arts, and physical education.
- Kindergarten curriculum: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Optional kindergarten enrichment: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. (no charge) and 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (full-day rate applies)
- Maximum enrollment of 24 children with a very low 1:8 child-to-teacher ratio.

Summer Camp
Age: Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
- Summer camp is about keeping busy and having fun.
- This active, recreational program includes games, arts and crafts, sports, and lots of field trips.
- Children’s academic skills are supported and enhanced through reading, computer programs, and other structured activities.

Toddler Program
Age range: 1-year-old and walking to 3-years-old
- Warm and nurturing teachers, especially important for children at this age, encourage toddlers to interact with peers and develop language, cognitive skills, and self-help skills.
- Each toddler room is licensed for 16 children with a very low child-to-teacher ratio of 1:4.

MEALS
A full-service kitchen operates on the premises and provides breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. All meals are homemade, nutritious, and served family-style. Daily menus are posted on our website, in each classroom, and on the kitchen window. All children are required to participate in the food program.

Preschool Program
Age range: 2½-years-old to 5-years-old
- The enriched preschool program provides a variety of stimulating activities where active involvement by the children in a discovery-oriented, language-rich environment enhances their social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and creative skills in preparation for kindergarten.
- Young preschool rooms are licensed for 20 children per room (with a very low child-to-teacher ratio of 1:7).
- Older preschool rooms are licensed for 24 children per room (with a very low child-to-teacher ratio of 1:8).

PHILOSOPHY
The AELC program is designed to meet each child’s individual needs, to foster development in intellectual and social skills, and to provide a safe, nurturing environment. We develop the curriculum through extensive assessment, identification of individual and group goals, and planning of appropriate activities. We have a strong commitment to working with parents and families.

CURRICULUM
The educational community consistently recognizes the AELC as a high-quality early learning center. The program is based on a developmentally appropriate curriculum that emphasizes discovery-based learning and active involvement by children.

Every classroom provides extensive opportunities for children to develop conceptual thinking, problem-solving, reading, math, and motor skills. The curriculum is designed to challenge and stimulate each child’s sense of imagination, creativity, and understanding of the world. Self-expression is encouraged through language, art, music, dramatic play, and interaction with teachers and friends.

HOURS & SCHEDULE
Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed on major holidays and for three in-service days per year (dates vary)
Closed during Winter Break (December 24-January 1)