

# Living Well

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by neighbors, for neighbors



# in Lowry

## Paddington Station Pre-School: The Story Behind the Red Bricks

On the outskirts of Lowry there lies a little red brick building. Inside this little red brick building there is a story to be told, one dating back to the late 1800s. It begins with the idea of a school, and at the heart of that school, the kids.

In 1891, the three-story Montclair School was built out of those same red bricks we notice today at the corner of Quebec and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Montclair Community, as that area was known, created the school out of the desire for their kids to receive an excellent education in the neighborhood. The early efforts of families and teachers, even all those years ago, was to ensure their kids and students received a quality experience and that this opportunity was available to all. The students were asked to name their school and together they chose to honor one of their favorite African explorers, *Henry M. Stanley*.

Soon, the *Stanley School* housed what's thought to be Denver's first public kindergarten. By the early 1900s, over 80 families resided in Montclair, and after the end of World War II even more families were living in close proximity at the Lowry Air Force Base. The population in this area did anything but slow and the number of kids grew.

Fast-forward over 100 years. The *Stanley School*, or *Paddington Station* as it's called today, has evolved and adapted to the needs of the community over time. The name has changed. The school grades that held classes in the building also changed. You'll find, however, that the one thing that has not changed lies at the core of Paddington's founding philosophies, and perhaps in those red bricks themselves.

"It's all about the kids. That's our mission and we will live our mission," explains Deb Deverell, Paddington's Head of School since 2013.

Deb comes to Paddington with a passion for early childhood education that you can see in the genuine smile she wears while greeting each child and family at the door each morning.

Paddington is a play-based pre-school offering a host of learning environments for kids as young as 12-months to kindergarten-age. Throughout their tenure at Paddington, children will learn without knowing it, they will get dirty and love every minute of it and they will cultivate a love for school that you'll have to see to believe!

A play-based program focuses on child-directed learning and open-ended discovery environments that leave room for each child to interpret situations and develop skills to meet their needs.

Beginning with those little people under the age of two through the kindergarteners, Paddington's village of fully-trained and qualified staff will equip them with life skills related to play, social and emotional development, vocabulary and language building, cognitive thinking, fine and gross motor skills, and creativity – all while the kids are having a blast!

A 2012 Paddington graduate recently expressed, "I would have stayed at Paddington forever. You get to have fun all day!"

Over the last few years, Paddington has gone to great lengths to get involved in the community and in the communities of their students. They've taken great strides in *cultivating* an environment that thrives on *collaboration* and *inspiration*.

"We are part of the *1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program*, and our *Little Free Library* just became official. We're doing all of these things for literacy and for vocabulary development. We are really enhancing the experience and realizing that our future lies in the hands of our students... it starts here," Deb explains.

As you consider where to send your little ones when they're ready, visit the colorful world behind those red bricks. The chatter, the laughter, the clamor of little feet running through the hallways at Paddington will tell the story. The essence of imagination, creativity, acceptance, encouragement and growth is yours to discover.

*Paddington Station Preschool is a welcoming and inclusive community that partners with families to celebrate childhood, embrace learning through play, and prepare confident individuals to joyfully explore the wonders of the world.*

*For more information, or to schedule a tour of Paddington Station, please call 303-333-9154 or visit them online at [www.paddingtonstation.org](http://www.paddingtonstation.org).*

Paddington Station Preschool



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