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EDUCARE
WASHINGTON, DC

Gazette

This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.



Letter from Leadership

Happy New Year from Educare DC! We hope everyone has a wonderful start to the new year!

Parent Council Meeting: These meetings are a great way to learn about school updates, get involved in the school, and meet other parents and staff! A Zoom link will be sent via the Remind App and through your family engagement specialist. This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th at 5 pm.

Prenatal Program: We are about to launch our new prenatal program! The program will support pregnant mothers and their babies to ensure they have access to quality healthcare, support from coaches, and connection with other mothers. Email enroll@educaredc.org, call 202.727.5604, or visit our webpage at www.educaredc.org/prenatal/ to learn more and join today!

Important Dates in January



- 18th: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed)
- 19th: Parent Council Meeting
- 20th: Presidential Inauguration Day (School Closed)



Additional Information:

Contact Educare DC: Please call 202.727.5604 if you have any questions.

Remind App: Remember to utilize the Remind App, if you are not already - contact Family Engagement to help set an account up or if your phone number has changed.



A Year in Review: This year has been full of unimaginable challenges and hardships - from COVID-19 to renewed and urgent calls for justice, along with many other life changes and shifts.

We started 2020 together with many wonderful events and memories! In February, we celebrated our first Literacy Fair dressed as our favorite storybook characters, gathered together to celebrate motherhood and fatherhood with our parents, and went on fun field trips to the National Children's Museum to learn about science!

In March, we closed our doors to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of our children, families, and staff. Although our doors were closed, the Educare community was not diminished. Our teachers quickly shifted to teaching virtually with prerecorded lessons, Zoom calls, and socially distant learning activities. Families received home lesson plans, supplies, food and other resources. We were even able to celebrate our rising kindergarteners by having a drive-thru graduation ceremony to commemorate all their accomplishments. In August, we reopened a small number of classrooms and created a hybrid program for our students' in-person and virtual learning.

While it is important to acknowledge and celebrate all we have accomplished this year, no matter how small, it is also okay to recognize that this year has been hard physically, mentally, and emotionally across many different aspects of our lives. 2020 was a challenging year, but we have learned a lot and grown in ways we could never have imagined. We are thankful for our Educare DC family's resilience and shared dedication to our children. Here is to continuing to learn and grow together in 2021!



Learning Tip of the Month

Express yourself with drawing!

As your child grows, drawing and scribbling will help give your child another way to share their ideas and express their feelings. Later on, this skill will help them in school and give them opportunities to use their imagination and be creative!

Even for young children, scribbling can help them develop the fine motor skills needed for writing and drawing. You can start simply by showing them how to use their fingers to make marks in the sand, foggy windows, or finger painting. Once they can hold an age-appropriate crayon, you can begin guiding them to create marks on paper and other materials.

For toddlers, drawing with crayons and markers allows them to create something using colors they like and to experiment with different marks. For them, the process is more important than the final product. As they get to pre-school, they will begin to draw with purpose and meaning - creating stories and making connections with different things they have learned.

Regardless of the age and the outcome - it is always fun to see the final product and display their artwork in your home!



SHOUT-OUT!

"I would like to send a big THANK YOU to Megan and Hannah for their support in creating some amazing recruitment pieces over the past few months, our collaboration has been awesome, and I truly appreciate you supporting my visions with your attention to details, timely responses, and willingness to team play with me ☐. I would also like to give a round of applause to the Educare DC EdFEST Recruitment team. Your willingness to come alongside me in representing Educare DC at MySchoolDC's Virtual EdFEST20 is greatly appreciated. You all attended the trainings, did your homework, and came looking the part and ready to go! I look forward to us working together for future recruitment events." - Ms. JaiFawn

"Shout out and thank you to the members of the CCP team that assisted with the data collection and self-assessment finalization process. You really outdid yourselves by including the quantitative and qualitative data in your reports! Truly outstanding! Shoutout to the entire Educare team for doing all that you do to keep our program thriving during the pandemic, from providing materials for virtual learning, providing in-person learning, recording, delivering Thanksgiving dinners to families, facilitating trainings, and more! I'm honored to be a part of such a stellar program and team!" - Ms. Talia Newman

"A big thank you to DeAndrea Powell for stepping up to lead an informative Professional Development for the IDEA remote team focused on using technology to create and upload video lessons to support the Educare remote programming, including a "How-To" video for all new future team members." - Ms. Ashley Betlock

A School for Your Community

Educare of Washington, DC, is an early childhood school built to serve the children and families of Washington, DC. We engage and empower parents in their children's learning and provide high-quality education through small class sizes and cutting-edge teaching methods. We are also committed to evaluation and continuous program improvement through our partnerships with the Educare Learning Network, Head Start and the University of Maryland.