

Gazette

"The more you care, the stronger you can be." - Jim Rohn



Letter from Leadership

- Hello! My name is **Megan Sheldon** and I am a new Mentor Teacher for Infant Toddler rooms 152, 156, 160, and 164. I am excited about the opportunity to work with the amazing teachers at Educare DC. As supervisor, mentor, and coach of your child's teacher, you will see me in the classroom regularly to provide support to teachers and students throughout the day. I also work with teachers, the family engagement team, and our health/safety team to ensure we are offering the highest quality of care to your child each day. I look forward to meeting you as I work with your child's teacher.
- **Enrollment:** We welcome our new and returning Educare DC families to the 2022-2023 school year and we are excited to see what this new school year brings. If you have received any emails requesting missing documents or information, please make sure to respond and submit that to enroll@educaredc.org ASAP. The Parent Referral Incentive is still in effect! If you know of any families with children ages 3-5 years old that are looking for high-quality childcare, refer them today. \$100 gift cards will be provided to those who refer successful enrollees. Please send your referral information to enroll@educaredc.org so the enrollment team can contact those families immediately.
- **Prenatal Program and Enrollment:** Learn more about how expectant moms can get empowered, informed, and supported by joining our Moms2Be prenatal program. Reach out to your FES, Perinatal Engagement Coordinator, or enrollment team to register. Visit our website today at www.educaredc.org/prenatal/.
- **Parent Policy Council Meeting:** Provides a formal structure whereby parents and community representatives can provide input regarding the nature and operations of the program as outlined in the Head Start Performance Standards and Head Start Act. Interested in learning more? Please reach out to your Family Engagement Specialist.
- **Family Wellbeing Program at Educare DC:** The Family Wellbeing Program offers mindful parenting sessions and other therapeutic services to support the emotional resilience of families. Interested in learning more? Please contact your Family Engagement Specialist.

Important Dates in October



- **October 7th** Professional Development Day (School Closed for Children)
- **October 10th** Indigenous Peoples' Day (School Closed)
- **October 26th** Family Engagement Presents: "Thank you for FALLing in love with Educare" (10-year anniversary family and community fall festival)



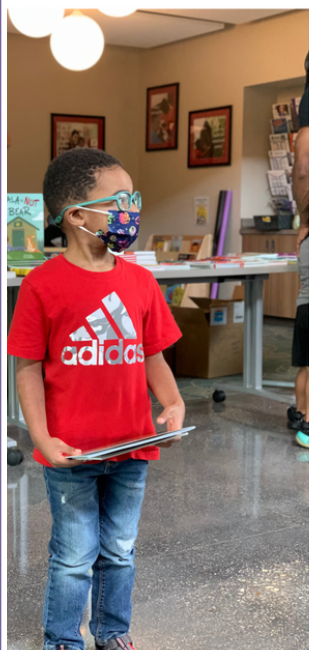
Parent Café: Virtual - October 20th at 3pm

Cafés are physically and emotionally safe spaces where families talk and listen to each other on topics that matter to them, such as the challenges and victories of raising a family, navigating landscapes of inequality, enhancing well-being, or being involved in the recovery process of someone they love. Through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, families explore their strengths, learn about the Protective Factors, and create strategies from their own wisdom and experiences to strengthen their families. Families leave Cafés feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they've learned. Interested in learning more? Please contact your Family Engagement Specialist.

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 FES to help set an account up or if your phone number has changed.



We Are Having Fun And Learning

We started off the school year with a book fair at the Parkside site where each of our students was able to take a book home with them. The Junior League of Washington provided an array of books for our students and parents. Our students and staff were very happy to receive these gifts from the Junior League of Washington.

Our PreK teachers, Early Head Start, and Child Care Partnership teams enjoyed an outing to the skating rink for team-building purposes. The team-building activities were meant to bring our teams together and emphasize the importance of taking risks and collaborating. Some supported others by either cheering them on or holding their hand, and although we had some falls with the team's help, everyone was able to dust themselves off and try again.

In September, Advocacy Manager Adam Barragan-Smith, Family Engagement Specialist Tamisa Brooks, and Parent Policy Council member James Goddard attended the first Parent Ambassador Institute in Scottsdale, Arizona. They met with staff and parents from other Educare schools from across the country to learn about Parent Ambassador programs and discuss how we can elevate family voices in our local and federal advocacy work.

Learning Tip of the Month

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley

At a time when our little learners are curious about everything they see and everything that's said, this is the perfect opportunity to teach them valuable skills that will stick with them forever.

According to Science Direct, Questioning helps students direct their learning as they merge their prior knowledge and new knowledge.

We can help students by answering their questions and encouraging more questions.



SHOUT-OUT!

"Shoutout to Ms. Charisse and Ms. LaSarah for making quick progress with sweet toddler helping him learn how to nap on his cot through many tears and supporting mom in weaning!" - Megan Sheldon

"Shoutout to Ms. Derricka and Ms. Alesia for implementation of the Creative Curriculum and managing student behaviors while understaffed" - Talia Newman

"Shout out to the CCP Team! It's a dynamic team with some of the most genuine and compassionate people in Educare DC. The team consistently collaborates to make an impact in the lives of children!" - Vashti Cooper

"Shoutout to Ms. Tameika, Ms. Artia and Ms. Letitia Marshall for helping with lunches, shifts, classrooms and supporting strategies to support challenging behaviors." - Talia Newman

"Shout out to everyone who has supported the education team with lunch breaks and classroom support. Whether you have held a baby, wiped a nose, checked on the teachers, or even just stopped by a classroom to share a word of encouragement, you are appreciated. No gesture is too big or too small, you are amazing, yes you, the one reading this! Educare is the best!" - Morgan Ruffin

"Rooms 113, 118, 160, & 164: Ms. Jannice, Ms. Iola, Ms. Alita, Ms. Shakell, Ms. Marie, Ms. Shamika, Ms. Claudia, Ms. LaTonya, Ms. LaSarah & Ms. Charisse J You ladies MAKE MY DAYS! You ALL are amazing and what you do. I'm giving you ALL THE FLOWERS! I am excited for the great times we will have this school year and I'm ecstatic to be your Family Engagement Specialist ((HUGS))" ~Tamisa

"I'd like to send a shout-out to Ms. Kathryn Draper aka KD for hitting the ground running! All of the skill set that you bring are truly helpful to the team. I can appreciate your eagerness to help and learn as well as your dedication to supporting the goals/mission of our program. Welcome again to Educare DC." - Precious Cunningham

"Shout out and thanks to Marie Williams and Sharita Wilkerson who jumped in to serve dinner on the "day the power went out"! - Barbara

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.