

Gazette

"Early childhood education is the key to the betterment of society."

Maria Montessori



Letter from Leadership

- **Excellence in Everything:** President and CEO, Jamal Berry, has reinforced the importance of practicing excellence in everything. We will strive to be excellent in all that we do, from the classroom to meetings, to parent interactions and relationships!
- **Enrollment:** We are excited to be preparing for School Year 23-24. As a reminder, Educare DC serves students 6 weeks to 5 years old so your child has the opportunity to stay with Educare until they head off to Kindergarten. We will be meeting with classrooms in April to share information about the enrollment process and answer any questions you may have. We have our Enrollment Fest event scheduled for May 24th from 4pm-6pm at our Parkside campus. This will be an opportunity to complete your students registration paperwork for next school year, interact with some of our community partners, and meet other families and staff members at Educare DC. If you have questions about enrollment, please reach out to a member of our enrollment team at enroll@educaredc.org
- **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 April



- April 10th – Professional Development Day (School Closed)
- April 17th Emancipation Day (School Closed)
- April 18th – 21st Spring Break (School Closed)

Follow us on social media

for helpful reminders and updates

 [educaredc](https://www.instagram.com/educaredc)  [EducareWashingtonDC](https://www.facebook.com/EducareWashingtonDC)  [DCEducare](https://twitter.com/DCEducare)



(Virtual) Parent Café: April 12th, 3 - 5pm

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.

Monthly Highlights

March was Read Across America month! At Educare DC-IDEA, we celebrated with giving books to children and families, having breakfast together, music, and dressing up like Dr. Seuss characters in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday!

Educare DC President and CEO Jamal Berry testified before the DC Council's Committee of the Whole in the Education Agencies Performance Oversight Hearings. Mr. Berry thanked the Council for funding the landmark Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund and advocated for the Council to engage OSSE to ensure thoughtful implementation of the long-term program later this year.

Educare DC Parent Ambassador Kevin Smith spoke at the Congressional Dads Caucus first meeting and roundtable at the US Capitol about the importance of quality, affordable childcare for working families like his. Thanks to Rep. Jimmy Gomez and National Womens Law Center for inviting us.



SHOUT-OUT!

"Shoutout to Dawn Wilson for continuously strengthening the First Rock Child Development program. She isn't afraid to have difficult conversations to drive data analysis and has also created documentation panel boards at the site to display classroom happenings! Way to increase the quality!" - Talia Newman

"A shout-out to Ms. Ruki for intentionally planning the CACFP week by engaging students in the classroom about eating healthy, giving credit to food service staff, staff, and teachers for their commitment to the CACFP program. OSSE commended our effort on this as a program." - Patricia D Torre

"I'd like to give a shoutout to the entire CCP team. They are always so collaborative, supportive, and continue to lead by example for how we can help our CCP sites thrive." - Kathryn Draper

"Shoutout to Mrs. Kermerish Prince for bringing her thoughtful ideas for Read Across America for the CCP Team and taking the lead on hosting the read aloud event with Community Helpers at St. Philip's CDC!" - Talia Newman

"Shout-out to everyone who went down to a classroom and read to our students. Thank you for understanding the value of reading and how much students love to learn and hear a new story from a staff member." - Eliza TH

"Shoutout to Frankie Addison for recruiting and supporting Parent Ambassador Kevin Smith to participate in the Congressional Dads Caucus roundtable on Capitol Hill. Your support of Kevin has made our advocacy work stronger. I appreciate you!" - Adam Barragan-Smith

"Shout out to the CCP FES team on their excellent presentation on family engagement! Everyone learned so much from strategies to implement to engage families to what the parent cafes entail. Kudos to Ambria, Ashley and Alexis for their professionalism and attention to detail within their presentation" - Talia Newman



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.