

FALL 2023

EDUCARE  
OF WASHINGTON DC

# Gazette



## Excellence in Everything:

### *A note from the President & CEO*

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!

## Recruitment and Enrollment

School Year 2023-2024 is in full swing, and we are so excited to have our students back in the classrooms. We welcomed many new faces and families to Educare DC this fall and continue to enroll students in our school. The parent referral incentive of a \$100 visa gift card is still in place for Pre-K students who enroll and stay for over 30 days. As an added bonus, we are also offering an incentive for any referral and enrollment to our Prenatal program, Moms 2 Be. If you have questions about enrollment, please contact a member of our enrollment team on-site or email at [enroll@educaredc.org](mailto:enroll@educaredc.org).

## Child Care Partners

My favorite season will be here this weekend! Yep it is Autumn. Autumn gives you a chance to see all the beautiful changes that this season has to offer. When you are having one of those days, I challenge you to embrace this amazing season by going on a brisk walk to see the wonderful colors of the leaves, to have a warm cup of pumpkin spice latte or go to a farm to pick some apples for an apple pie. Whatever your choice you will see that one of those days will become a little easier to deal with.

Hello Autumn

Autumn is the season to

Unlock your potential and

Take the leap of faith because

Under the vibrant canopy of colors

Miracles will unfold when you

Navigate through uncertainty with hope



## Important Dates

Thursday, Oct. 12 Parent Cafe - Parkside Location




Wednesday Oct. 18 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Parkside & IDEA Locations

Tuesday, Oct. 24 Fall Festival - Parkside Location

Thursday, Oct. 26 Fall Festival - IDEA Location

## Follow us on social media

for helpful reminders and updates

 [educaredc](#)  [EducareWashingtonDC](#)  [DCEducare](#)

## Educare DC Contact Information:

Educare DC - Parkside: 202-727-5604

Educare DC - IDEA: 202-738-5034

**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.**

## Prenatal

The Moms 2 Be Prenatal Program has hosted its first training of the school year. Our topic was Introducing the Principles of Child Development and Learning. Our participants learned how young children develop and learn and what to expect during their child's first year of life. Our next training will be October 18, 2023. Our participants will learn about physical and intellectual development in young children. Lunch, as always, will be served. Moms 2 Be continues to enroll new participants, so if you or someone you know is interested, please apply today at [EducareDC.org/Prenatal](https://EducareDC.org/Prenatal).

## Parent Ambassador Program



Educare DC is excited to launch the second cohort of our Parent Ambassador program! Over the next few months, the Parent Ambassadors will meet every month to learn about, discuss, and engage in advocacy activities. We are thrilled to welcome Njeri Jenkins as Parent Advocacy Coordinator!

In this role Njeri will be leading the Parent Ambassador program and coordinating their participation in local and federal advocacy. In September, Parent Ambassador Jontice Small attended the press conference unveiling of the Child Care Stabilization Act on Capitol Hill and had the chance to speak with multiple members of Congress, including Senator Tim Kaine and House of Representatives Minority Whip Congresswoman Katherine Clarke.

## Comprehensive Services



Educare staff members consistently exemplify excellence in everything they do. Educare DC's Comprehensive Services Team presented to the DC Health Management Network on Sept. 8 about Comprehensive Services in ECE: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic.

## Family Engagement

I am excited to announce that Educare DC will host its first Parent Café of the new School Year 2023-2024! This first Parent Café will be located at our Parkside site. Parent Café takes place monthly and is a safe space to take a breath and relax while building great relationships and strengthening ourselves and our families. You will enjoy food, fellowship, and fun! Educare DC is looking for parents who are interested in advocating and playing a significant role in driving policies and guidelines for our program. We will host Parent Policy Council Elections in the coming weeks. These elected officials will hold a leadership role in the program for volunteering and parent partnership.

## Education at Parkside & IDEA

Studies have shown that children absent during the first month of school regularly are more likely to continue being absent throughout the year. Each day a child is absent represents a missed opportunity for learning. Too many absences can impact the absent child's academic performance and the whole class's learning experience.

Educare DC is committed to addressing and reducing chronic absences in our schools. Developing a daily attendance routine is now more critical than ever. It helps to:

- Lower stress levels
- Makes it easier to connect with friends and teachers
- Supports learning

Please get in touch with your Family Engagement Specialist if you need help with attendance.

We strive to create a safe, healthy, and conducive learning environment for all students. We are committed to listening and partnering with you to ensure our students have a successful academic year.

## Professional Development Institute (PDI)

Are you interested in a career in early childhood education? Learn about Educare DC's Professional Development Institute. During the Professional Development Institute, teachers will build knowledge in order to be better equipped to provide quality education and care for the children in our schools. The Institute will provide teachers with **one month of paid training**; following successful completion of the PDI teachers will have the opportunity to join the Educare DC staff as Traveling Teacher Aides. Trainings will include:

- Foundational courses including the Essential Practices of Educare
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Coaching by experienced Educare DC educators
- Reflective practices
- Normalizing and enforcing best practices that align with license-regulated compliance requirements

Learn more here: <https://www.educaredc.org/what-we-offer/pdi/>

## ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

### GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



**PRESCHOOLERS**  
build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**  
read well by the end of third grade



**HIGH SCHOOLERS**  
stay on track for graduation



**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
earn their degrees



**WORKERS**  
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

