

WINTER 2024

Gazette

EDUCARE

OF WASHINGTON DC



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!

Prenatal

The Educare DC Prenatal Program will host its first Moms 2 Be event of 2024. On Wednesday, February 14th, our first Love Yourself / Love Your Sister Celebration will focus on heart health and self-care. All of our current moms and those on the prenatal waitlist are invited to an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship. If you know anyone who is pregnant or has a newborn aged birth to 1 year old, please encourage them to learn more about Moms 2 Be. We are enrolling new members. Enroll here:

<https://www.educaredc.org/enroll/prenatal/>

Education at Parkside & IDEA

Can you believe we are halfway through the program year already? During February, we will begin conducting Transition Meetings for all our students transitioning from the Early Head Start program into the Head Start program and those transitioning from Head Start to Kindergarten. This is an exciting time! We are reaching out to each family to schedule a date and time. This meeting is crucial for your child's continued success in school. We will review your child's progress, strengths, areas of growth, next steps, and placement. If you have any questions concerning Transition Meetings, please contact your child's teacher, Family Engagement Specialist, or School Director. We look forward to reviewing all the wonderful things your child is doing and will do in the future!

Advocacy & Parent Ambassador Program



On December 11, DC Councilmember Christina Henderson visited Educare DC. Parent Ambassadors Ronika Wheeler and Nashema McBeath met with her and advocated for equity in special education services for Pre-K students. Councilmember Henderson also visited Jannice Wright's classroom, who shared how the Pay Equity Fund has helped her and urged the DC Council to compensate teachers for their years of experience as DCPS does.



Important Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 16 to Friday, Jan. 19 The Labor of Love Yard Sale - Parkside Location

Friday, Jan. 26 Community Partner Meeting, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Parkside Location

Wednesday, Feb. 14 Love Yourself / Love Your Sister Event - Parkside

Friday, Feb. 16 Professional Development Day (School Closed)

Monday, Feb. 19 Presidents Day (School Closed)

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.

Recruitment and Enrollment

As we jump into 2024 we are preparing for enrollment for School Year 2024-2025. If you are interested in enrolling your student for next school year reach out to your family engagement specialist or a member of the enrollment team. Our Pre-K program is not a part of the DC lottery, so families do not need to apply externally. If you would like your student to enroll for School Year 2024-2025 please reach out to your family engagement specialist or a member of the enrollment team. If you have questions about enrollment please connect with a member of our enrollment team on site or email enroll@educaredc.org.

Enroll here: <https://www.educaredc.org/enroll/>

Child Care Partners

The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership is concluding its final year of grant cycle 1. We have seen a lot of progress from our childcare partner sites within their policies, operations, staff retention, and educational practices. Some of the achievements that we are proud of within this grant cycle are as follows: increasing the number of home visits per year to help us build relationships, supporting our partner sites with regular parent meetings and events that engage families, as well as our most recent enrollment data that increased from 53% enrolled to 76% enrolled children and families within a year. We are also very proud that we have enhanced the buildings of our partner sites by building new playgrounds, installing walls to stop the transfer of sight and sound from one classroom to another-making a less disruptive classroom environment, as well as completing renovations to increase the number of sinks and food preparation stations. We look forward to another five years of the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant beginning March 1, 2024, where we plan to continue to improve outcomes by utilizing data and collaborating with our childcare partners in Ward 7 and 8.



Comprehensive Services

We're gearing moms to be up for motherhood. Our Moms 2 Be program hosted its annual baby shower on Dec. 20, where expectant moms were given gifts, support, and a sense of community. It takes a village to raise a child, and our prenatal program is all hands on deck. If you or anyone you know is an expectant mom in need of community and support, please refer them to our prenatal program.

Enroll here:
<https://www.educaredc.org/enroll/prenatal>



Family Engagement

We're starting the year off by spreading love. Join us now until Friday, January 19 for Educare DC's The Labor of Love Yard Sale. All families and staff members are welcome to shop and volunteer. Items are free of charge and outside donations are accepted. Nothing says I love you more than free stuff. So, come on out and help us spread the love to our school community.

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/>

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.