

SUMMER 2024

EDUCARE

OF WASHINGTON DC

Gazette



Excellence in Everything: A note from the President & CEO

This summer, I want to remind all families that we are striving for excellence in everything in all that we do. Let's make the most of this time together and continue to prioritize our commitment to excellence in all aspects of our lives. - Jamal Berry

Recruitment and Enrollment

We are currently enrolling for School Year 2024-2025, which begins August 26th. There are vacancies for all ages at both Educare DC campuses. Any interested families should apply and connect with a member of our enrollment team. We are also continuing our parent incentive program of a \$100 visa gift card for a family who refers a child who is a DC resident, eligible for Head Start/ Pre-K (turns 3 or 4 years old on 9/30/2024 or turns 5 years old on 10/1/2024 or after) and must enroll and maintain attendance for 30 days. If you have questions about enrollment, please get in touch with a member of our enrollment team on-site or email enroll@educaredc.org.

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

Advocacy & Parent Ambassador Program



The 2024 advocacy season was our busiest ever. We mobilized the Educare DC community to defend the Pay Equity Fund from Mayor Bowser's proposed elimination in the FY25 DC Budget.

15 teachers and staff met with DC Councilmembers at the Wilson Building, 6 testified in DC Council Budget

Oversight Hearings, were interviewed and featured in media stories, and dozens attended rallies and made phone calls to Councilmembers' offices.

Thanks to this advocacy the Council restored \$70 million annually the program.

Prenatal

During the 2024 Educare Learning Network Meeting, the Director of Comprehensive Services, Comprehensive Services Manager, and Perinatal Engagement Coordinator presented "A Unique Approach to Center-based Prenatal Care in Head Start." They talked about the prenatal program "Moms2Be" and benefits that they are giving for the 24 pregnant moms enrolled in the program.



Important Dates

Friday, August 2 Last Day of Classes for Students
Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9 School Closed
Monday, August 12 - Friday, August 23 Professional Development School Closed for students
Monday, August 26 - First Day of School

Follow us on social media for helpful reminders and updates

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

Educare DC Contact Information:

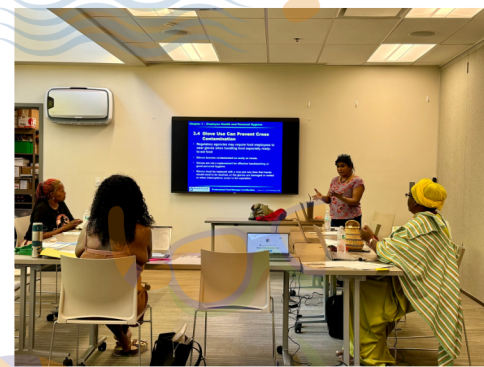
Educare DC - Parkside: 202-727-5604

Educare DC - IDEA: 202-738-5034

Remind App: Remember to utilize the Remind App, if you are not already connected. Contact your family engagement specialist to help create an account or if your phone number has changed.

Comprehensive Services

The Comprehensive Services Department, recently conducted a one-day National Food Safety Manager Certification Training for staff and parents. Ms. Sunithi Selvaraj, a registered dietitian and Educare DC nutrition consultant, spearheaded the training. Upon completion of the training, all participants took the test with 100% passing rate and are now eligible to apply for a Food Safety Manager Certification from DC Health. This certification will enable them to get a higher pay in the food service sector.





The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) gives Educare DC the opportunity to enhance the practices of current programs by facilitating professional development and other early childhood practices.

One of the many supports provided to our child care partners is the purchase and implementation of the research based curriculum, Creative Curriculum.

Creative Curriculum provides a nurturing and literacy rich learning environment to students, while also emphasizing the importance of a print rich environment. Pictured below, Ms. Young and Ms. Wright's classroom at St. Timothy's Episcopal CDC shows how they take pride in implementing the curriculum, have classroom displays that exhibit play-based learning, and advance vocabulary words. This picture shows a print rich learning environment!

Family Engagement

On Friday, June 28th, Educare DC held our second annual EducHELLa event to support recruitment, health, and wellness and celebrate our Pre-K4 graduates through music and arts. Our activities included music by the Side by Side Band and a DJ, movement with the Coyaba African Dance Company, and arts and crafts.



The Children's National Dental Van serviced children and families, and kids were allowed to climb aboard and explore a DC Fire Department Truck.

Summer Community Events

- Free admission to enjoy the National Zoo
- Rock Creek Park pony ride
- Wading pool and fountains at Yards Park
- Split a sundae at DC's own Ice Cream Jubilee
- Spot some inspiring art
- The National Museum of Natural History
- LEGO Exhibit
- Make your own stamps
- National Museum of African American History and Culture

Learn more about summer events in DC
<https://ow.ly/ZiYt50SCIKo>

In early childhood education, research shows that art improves children's comprehension, introduces them the mathematical concepts, and allows them to enhance their social-emotional capacities. In our field, this is essential. The incorporation of art is essential to the development of children. The Children's Art Studio of Washington, DC, has partnered with Educare DC to provide these experiences. During art class, the children were introduced to several new art experiences.



The children worked with clay, paint, cloth, wood, string, watercolor, pencil, and more to create thoughtful art projects every week throughout the 2023-2024 school year. The art program contributed to the social, emotional, intellectual and developmental well-being of our children. We would like to thank Ms. Nicole Brandes and her team for contributing to the development of our children and providing experiential learning to enhance their experiences!



Sign up for the Books from Birth Program!

Did you know that through the Books from Birth program through the DC Public Library, you can get a free book for your child from birth every month until they are five? The program is open to all children under age 5 in Washington, DC. Click the Imagination Library online registration form with your child's information to register.
<https://ow.ly/Isab50SCGZG>

You can also register using the Spanish Language form
<https://ow.ly/GZ1m50SCHmP>

Learn more about the Books from Birth Program
<https://www.dclibrary.org/using-the-library/books-birth>

A School for Your Community - Educare of Washington, DC is an early childhood school built to serve 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, Office of Head Start, and the University of Maryland.