

FALL 2024

Gazette

EDUCARE

OF WASHINGTON DC



Excellence in Everything:

A note from the President & CEO

As we embrace the beautiful Fall season, I want to remind all families that our pursuit of excellence remains at the forefront of everything we do. Let's take this time together to deepen our commitment to excellence in all aspects of our lives, creating a warm and enriching environment for our community. Happy Fall to everyone! - Jamal Berry

Recruitment and Enrollment

It's a new school year, and the recruitment and enrollment team is hard at work managing open houses and community partner meetings. Our community partner meeting occurred on November 1 at 11 am at our Parkside location. We are still actively recruiting for our Head Start slots in our Pre-K program. Families can earn a \$100 Visa gift card if they refer a Head Start-eligible student who enrolls and attends for at least 30 days.

Advocacy & Parent Ambassador Program

Educare DC parents, staff, and members of the Ward 7 community joined us for the Wendell Felder Candidate Forum on October 29 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm at the Educare DC-Parkside campus.

With former Mayor and current Ward 7 Councilmember Vincent Gray retiring, this forum was a unique chance to hear directly from Wendell Felder, who won the Democratic primary in June. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with him, ask questions, and discuss the critical issues that affect our community. Congratulations to Mr. Felder for becoming Ward 7's Councilmember-elect!






Important Dates

Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29: Thanksgiving Break, 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 connected. Contact your family engagement specialist to help create an account or if your phone number has changed.

Comprehensive Services

We're striving to reach the Head Start Performance standards and beyond! The first 45-day vision and hearing screenings are vital for promoting health and learning in line with Head Start Performance Standards. These screenings help identify potential developmental issues early, allowing us to support each child's growth in a nurturing environment.

By detecting these sensory problems quickly, we can ensure children are engaged in learning, building their social skills, and reaching their developmental goals. Prioritizing these screenings shows our commitment to the health and success of all children at Educare DC. Health is wealth!



Family Engagement

For the Family Engagement Team, Fall means elections and festivities. Family Engagement held their first Parent Committee Meeting of SY 24-25. The hybrid meeting occurred on Tuesday, October 15, at 3:30 pm at Parkside and via Zoom. At Educare DC, we held elections! Our Parent Policy Council Elections that is. Parents cast their ballots on Friday, October 18, 2024.

Our Fall festivals were in full swing in October. Our Parkside, Deanwood, and CCP sites held their festivals for students and families, where guests participated in petting zoos, ate catered chili with toppings, danced to music from a live DJ, and took home fresh produce. Our theme this year was "A Taste of Fall." Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Prenatal

As we continue throughout the fall season, our Moms 2 Be Prenatal program is dedicated more than ever to promoting self-care.

On Wednesday, September 18, the Moms 2 Be Prenatal Program kicked off the new school year with a workshop focused on self-care and resilience, embodying our belief that prioritizing your well-being enables you to care for others more effectively. Participants engaged in delightful activities such as candle making and body scrub crafting, creating a serene atmosphere where everyone could connect and unwind.

It was a truly enriching experience, and the camaraderie shared among participants made it all the more special.



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.

Education at IDEA & Parkside

With the new school year upon us, the Education team at Educare DC is already making impactful strides. Our PK teachers will take part in a General Motors-funded Science Club. They will participate in monthly Community Practice groups on the Early Science Initiative Framework that provides core ideas on scientific engagement and exploration. Due to her high-quality teaching practices and level of engagement in last year's Science Club, Jamari Blakeney, PK lead teacher, co-presented at the National Science Teaching Association (NTSA) conference from November 6 to November 9 in Nola, New Orleans.

The Education team is passing the torch to the next generation of teachers. This fall, we have seven Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education University of Maryland students interning in an infant or toddler classroom. These students are simultaneously placed in an infant or toddler placement and enrolled in a child development course.

Readers are leaders! Did you know that reading with your child is one of the most powerful tools for helping them build language and thinking skills? Even before children can talk, story time helps build babies' brains. Educare DC teachers are not just encouraging, but also empowering parents to read to their little ones as often as possible. By doing so, you are not just spending quality time with your child, but also shaping their future.

