



Summer 2025

Gazette

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

Letter from Leadership

Dear Educare Washington DC Families,

As summer draws to a close and as we begin a new school year, I want to take a moment to connect with each of you and share some updates. Our commitment to providing a supportive and enriching environment continues, and we are here for you.

In these times of political uncertainty, it is more important than ever to lean on our community for support and resilience. At Educare DC, we celebrate the diversity of our families and encourage you to connect, fostering relationships that enrich our children's lives. Together, we are stronger, and your involvement is vital for creating a nurturing environment for our little ones.

Please remember that we are always here as a resource for you. Do not hesitate to reach out to your family engagement specialist or anyone on our team for support. We value your partnership and are dedicated to helping you and your children thrive.

Warm wishes,
-Jamal Berry

Comprehensive Services

The health and safety of our students are key to our Comprehensive Services team! On June 4th, our Comprehensive Services team led a powerful conversation on health and nutrition for students with disabilities at the Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee meeting (HMHSAC).

In alignment with Head Start Performance Standards, we regularly coordinate and host these meetings to engage our comprehensive services team, local partners, and families in meaningful discussions on health and mental health-related topics.

At our most recent meeting, key discussions focused on school safety and nutrition strategies tailored for children with learning differences.



The June 4th Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting



Important Dates

- **August 11th to August 22nd**, Professional Development, No School
- **Monday, August 25th**, First Day of School
- **Monday, September 1st**, Labor Day, No school

Follow us on social media
for helpful reminders and updates

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

Recruitment & Enrollment

Now Welcoming New Families!

We're thrilled to welcome back our returning families for the 2025-2026 school year! 🎉

Open Enrollment is now underway. Are you or someone you know looking for a high-quality early learning experience? Schedule a tour and discover why Educare DC is a great place to learn and grow!

Additional 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.



Advocacy

Our incredible Parent and Teacher Ambassadors showed up and showed out at the DC Council's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Oversight Hearings! Through powerful personal testimonies, they highlighted the vital importance of sustained public investment in the Pay Equity Fund, child care subsidies, and the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP)—all essential supports for educators, families, and our youngest learners. We're proud to stand alongside these passionate advocates as they champion equity and opportunity for all children.



Educare DC Assistant Teacher, Artia Brown, testifying at the DC Council's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Oversight Hearings



Child Care Partners (CCP)

Educare DC's Child Care Partners started the summer off with a bang! CCP is thrilled to be in year 7 of our Early Head Start-Child Care Partner Grant. We closed out our first 45 days of the program year in April 2025, with an increase in home visit participation and family partnership agreement completion. 97% of CCP families participated in a home visit with teachers, family engagement specialists, and other CCP staff members.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to launch a more intentional father engagement initiative, starting with relationship-building events in celebration of Father's Day. We're also focused on increasing family involvement in the Policy Council and deepening our commitment to inclusion and developmental support.

This year, we'll continue implementing research-based strategies to support children with varying abilities and promote social-emotional growth through Conscious Discipline. Our inclusion and wellness specialist will work closely with teachers, introducing new tools—like cozy corners—to help children build self-regulation skills. Here's to another year of growth, partnership, and continuous quality improvement with our incredible CCP community!



A CCP site cozy corner

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.

Prenatal



Moms 2 Be May Workshop

Our Moms 2 Be prenatal program is overflowing with a wealth of knowledge and resources to support pregnant and new moms! This summer, we prioritized healthy eating and wellness for our families.

Through our valued partnership with FRESHFARM, families are receiving fresh fruits and vegetables. In May, we highlighted the importance of self-care with a hands-on workshop where families created their own flower bouquets and body scrubs.

We're excited to have hosted a Safe Sleep workshop in June and a car seat safety class in July, followed by a special Open House event. Stay tuned for more details! Learn more about Moms 2 Be at www.educaredc.org/prenatal.

Education at Parkside and IDEA

Educare DC parents are staying connected and informed through our parent meetings!

Our parent meetings offer families a valuable opportunity to learn about child development, stay up to date on classroom activities, and engage with community partnerships that help enrich each child's learning experience. We're proud to foster strong family-school connections that support every child's growth and success.



Professional Development

Professional Development is on a role at Educare DC! We're excited to welcome the 6th Cohort of the Professional Development Institute, now featuring the new Traveling Teaching Aide pathway—a hands-on program to help educators grow and better support students

This year, staff took part in trainings, conferences, and team-building activities to build their skills and strengthen collaboration. As we gear up for the 2025–2026 school year, we remain focused on personal growth, teamwork, and continuous improvement across Educare DC.