

School-age Programs: Kindergarten and Up

Our before and after school-age program is based on a recreational philosophy tempered by homework needs. Our program emphasizes a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, sports, music, cooking, physical development, computers, and creative dramatics. These activities combine to create a total program to serve the needs of school-age children, in addition to giving them a sense of belonging in a safe, friendly and relaxed environment.

Summer Programs: 8 weeks and up

A summer program offers children a diversion from the school year curriculum. Special events are enjoyed such as outdoor water play, nature hikes on 16 wooded acres, and family gatherings. A brochure is available in January of each year specific to the upcoming summer events.



Family Involvement

The Educare Learning Center Community acknowledges the family as a vital partner in growing healthy and happy children. To encourage networking among families, activities are provided such as:

- * Active Family Association
- * Parents' Nights Out
- * Family Festivals
- * Local Community Events
- * Fundraisers
- * Family Breakfasts
- * Family Picnics
- * Parent Workshops



EDUCARE LEARNING CENTER

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EDUCARE LEARNING CENTER

Educare Learning Center is "a place to grow" healthy and happy children. The nature-enriched environment is a unique setting in which children can explore and learn.

**Accredited by the
Maryland State
Department of Education**

Infant/Toddler Programs: 8 weeks—2 Year-olds

Schedules

Families of infants and toddlers may choose from the following schedules:

- * Half-day (6 a.m.—12 p.m., 12:30-6:30 p.m.)
Half-day not available for children under 2 yrs.
- * Core-day (9 a.m.—3 p.m.)
- * Full-day (6:00 a.m.—6:30 p.m.)



Infants have individual schedules in regard to eating, sleeping, and active play needs.

Program Highlights

Our program for two-year-old children works to bridge the gap between the dependency of the infant and the independence of the preschooler. Knowledgeable staff are readily available to create a scaffolding of early learning experiences, constantly creating a balance between security and challenge.

Daily written communication provides parents with insight into each child's individual activities. In addition, materials are carefully chosen and readily available to encourage manipulation and exploration of the young child's world.

The *Guidelines for Healthy Child Development and Care for the Young Child (Birth—Age 3)* developed by the State of Maryland is used as a developmental guide for assessing growth and development in addition to the *Creative Curriculum Text for Infants, Toddlers and Twos*.

Preschool-age Programs: 3 and 4 Year-olds

Schedules

Educare offers a variety of options that include a morning preschool-age curriculum with wrap-around childcare. Families may choose from the following schedules:

- * Half-day (6 a.m.—12 p.m., 12:30-6:30 p.m.)
- * Core-day (9 a.m.—3 p.m.)
- * Full-day (6:00 a.m.—6:30 p.m.)

For families wanting a preschool-hours-only program, Educare provides a program that follows the Frederick County Public School System calendar:

Three-year olds Program:

- * 2 days/week—Tues./Thurs. (9-11:45 a.m.)

Four-year olds Program:

- * 3 days/week—Mon./Wed./Fri. (9-11:45 a.m.)
- * Preschool Enrichment Option
(Wednesdays 11:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)



Program Highlights

Our programs promote school readiness as the primary goal for children's development and learning.

We facilitate cognitive growth through a balance of child-initiated play and teacher-directed experiences. The social-emotional development of preschool-aged children is supported by building confidence, trust, and independence through a multitude of daily experiences with others. Physical development is enhanced through indoor and outdoor play opportunities that allow children to perfect their fine and large motor skills.

Curriculum

State Approved Curriculum

Educare Learning Center uses the Creative Curriculum published by Teaching Strategies. This curriculum focuses on establishing a well-organized environment as a framework that supports higher levels of learning.

Domains of Learning

Our preschool programming is guided by the Maryland Model for School Readiness. The Work Sampling System provides a framework to assess growth and development using the following domains of learning: language and literacy, personal and social, mathematical thinking, scientific thinking, social studies, the arts, and physical development and health. Parent-teacher conferences are held in the Fall and Spring.

Specials

Special classes are facilitated by trained professionals in the following content areas: art, music, fitness, nutrition (Food Groupies), and social skills (Second Step).

Nature-al Discoveries Curriculum



The Educare Learning Center has a comprehensive nature program called "Nature-al Discoveries" that includes gardening, landscaping, ecological awareness, environmental awareness, natural science exploration and community service. Children take monthly discovery walks down our discovery path which leads to Catoctin and Broad Run Creeks.