



Educare Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2010

EDUCARE LEARNING
CENTER
2538 JEFFERSON PIKE
JEFFERSON, MD 21755

301-834-9007

WWW.EDUCATE
WITHCARE.COM

EDUCARE@EDUCATE
WITHCARE.COM

In this issue:

- Annual Picnic
- It Takes The Whole Family to Support School Success
- Program Updates
- Parent's Place
- Classified Corner

You can never appreciate the shade of a tree unless you sweat in the sun. -- Author Unknown



5th Annual Family Picnic

The Educare Family Association held its annual family picnic on Friday, June 18, 2010. Over 125 people were in attendance. The children enjoyed a combo moon bounce with a climbing wall, bounce house and slide. Families were invited to bring a dish to share at the potluck. Hotdogs and hamburgers were donated by Nancy Shank. The Educare Family Association thanks everyone for their attendance and wishes families "Happy Summer!"



"It Takes the Whole Family to Support School Success"

As Seen in Frederick's Child July/August 2009 Issue Edited by Authors

By Susan Mogard, Owner and
Kimberly Rokos, Exec. Director

We have all used the much-quoted statement, "*It takes a whole village to raise a child*" but have we heard the less-quoted but also very important statement, "*It takes the whole family to support school success*"?

Tip #1: Let children know that you value their learning experiences (whether in elementary school, preschool, or childcare programs). Talk about school and what children may be looking forward to doing or any concerns/questions they may have.

Tip #2: Make sure they (and you!) know the teacher's and assistant's names, and principal's/administration's names as well. When you use teacher's names in your everyday conversations, children start feeling more at ease.

Tip #3: Organize routines that include some reading and writing activities appropriate for your child's age and ability. Get in the groove by spending some evening time writing letters or drawing pictures to send to relatives, make a book about your family's summer activities, play games, read books together, or make a trip to the library.

Tip #4: Decrease or eliminate television viewing and replace that time with more active experiences. Television viewing has been linked to making children more distractible, nervous, and less inclined to use their thinking skills. Take walks and talk together. Include children in daily household chores.

Tip #5: Take time to go to your children's school/center website and refresh your knowledge of the programs offered. Read about school readiness for younger children at <http://readyatfive.org/> or go to the Frederick County Schools website at www.fcps.org.

Tip #6: Take a moment to ponder your goals for your child. It is very hard to reach a destination without a plan or at least a general idea of the direction you want to go.

Tip #7: Set up a special place for your child to study or work on projects. Consider buying double of certain school supplies so they are readily available at home as well as school. Having supplies such as paper, writing utensils, tape, glue, scissors, markers, crayons, notebooks, or pencil sharpeners available invite children into school-related activities.

Taking to heart the statement, "It takes a whole family to support school success" can truly make a difference. When you think about it, isn't supporting school success really about preparing children for successful lives -- and isn't that truly the ultimate destination we hope our children will reach via the support of the family?

Save the Date Summer Family Events

- * Saturday, July 10, 2010, Educare Day @ The Catocin Zoo
 - * Saturday, July 17, 2010, 4-9 p.m. Parent's Night Out
 - * Thursday, July 29, 2010, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Educare Parent Workshop, "Preventing Problems"
 - * Saturday, August 7, 2010, 4-7 p.m. "Wild Rumpus" Campfire & Family Discovery Walk
- Hope you can join us for any of these fun family events. Sign up sheets are at the front desk.



Program Updates

Accreditation

Educare is due for Accreditation renewal in Summer '10. Educare was accredited in June 2007 and is required to renew every three years. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) accreditation is a voluntary process in Maryland that recognizes a high standard of excellence in early childhood programs. Validators will arrive late summer/early fall to evaluate our program.

New Well Update

Thanks to all families, staff and children for their flexibility and understanding during the last month. Between drilling in the parking lot, replacing the sidewalk and lack of running water, we are happy to announce it is complete and our new well is in operation!

Summer Event Calendars

All families should have received a summer calendar of events which lists all on-site field trips, individual classroom

discovery walks and water days.

School-Age Field Trips

All families of school-age children have received a summary of all off-site field trips. Please review this information for specific details about each trip. Parents need to pack a bagged lunch on all off-site field trip days and make sure to have their children wear their Educare T-shirt which they will make in the next few weeks.

Summer Vacations

Parents are encouraged to fill out the summer vacation calendars distributed the week of June 14. These calendars allow us to know when children will be absent from our program and aid us in planning our staff vacations. Tuition is due regardless of attendance/ vacations. Please remember to inform the front desk and your child's teachers of any planned absences.

Early Bird Payments

Thanks to all families who participated in the early bird discount for the month of July. Due to the high response, we are extending this offer again for August monthly payments.

Late Tuition Payments

We are experiencing a large volume of late payments. Please bring accounts up to date. Any monthly payments received after the 5th of the month are no longer eligible for the 2% discount and any bi-weekly payments received after the Friday of the week due will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Please contact Kim Rokos, Executive Director with any questions krokos@educatewithcare.com

Referral Credit

A \$50.00 referral credit is given to any family who refers a new enrollment. The new family must be enrolled for 30 days before the credit is applied. The best compliment you can

give us is to give referrals in our community.

Educare Closures

Educare will be closed on Monday, July 5 for the 4th of July and Friday, August 20, 2010 for a staff in-service day.

Recycling

Educare is now participating in commercial recycling at our program. The bin is located next to the trash bin in the staff parking lot area. Classrooms will be receiving recycling bins and teachers will be encouraging children to recycle on a daily basis.

Water Days/Creek Days

All classrooms are participating in weekly water days. Teachers post reminders on their doors about these days. Make sure to bring the proper clothing so your children can participate: hats, water shoes, bathing suits, etc. Older children are participating in creek days where they will enjoy the creek at the bottom of the discovery walk path.

Parent's Place

*Celebrate
Summer - Sun
drenched days
and starlit
nights...*
-- Gooseberry
Patch

Educare Updates E-mail List

Educare sends periodic emails to families about upcoming events and other program reminders. These reminders include family events, holiday/in-service closures, etc. These events are also listed on Educare's Home Page www.educatewithcare.com/ Educare. If you would like to be added to our updates list please email educare@educatewithcare.com with your contact information.

Educare Family Association

The Educare Family Association is in the process of finalizing the 2010-11 Calendar of Events. A sub-committee meeting will be held off-site on Friday, July 9. The Educare Family Association is an opportunity for parents to network with each other and become a support system to the program to help plan family events and raise funds to enhance program offerings and materials. If you have any suggestions about any fundraisers and/or parent events, send an email to the EFA at EFA@educatewithcare.com

Classifieds Corner

We are in need of any bins that could be used as recycling bins for our classrooms. If you have any bins to donate please email educare@educatewithcare.com with information.

We are still looking for a small used tractor (with 4 or 5 foot wide bucket) for the upkeep of our parking lot, playgrounds and Discovery Walk areas. If you have a source or any information on a small tractor that might be available, please email or call Educare at 301-834-9007.

