



Educare Newsletter

Monthly Family Newsletter

November 2011

EDUCARE LEARNING CENTER
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November Highlights:

Unit of Study: *Food & Family*

- November 1—Parent Workshop, 6:30 p.m. (POSTPONED UNTIL JAN '12)
- November 2—EFA Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- November 6—Veteran's Day Parade in Brunswick (EFA), Time TBA
- November 15—FCPL Book-mobile
- November 22—Thanksgiving Feast, 11:30 a.m.
- November 23—Popcorn Trolley
- November 23—FCPS dismiss 2 hrs early
- **November 23—ELC CLOSSES @ 5:30 p.m.**
- **November 24—ELC CLOSED (Thanksgiving)**
- November 25—FCPS Closed/PS4 Closed
- November 28—Scholastic Book Fair Begins (EFA)
- November 29—Parent Orientation, 5:30 p.m.

Emergency Cards and "All About My Child" Annual Updates

Please remember to stop by the front desk to update your child(ren)'s emergency card information and All About My Child forms. These forms are required by the Office Of Child Care (Licensing) to be updated annually. Thanks in advance to those who have already completed the updates. See Ms. Janice with questions.

Inclement Weather Policy Update/Emergency Closings

As winter approaches, we want to remind families of our Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings Policy. "Educare makes every effort to stay open for scheduled program hours. When it is necessary to close during the day of operation due to weather, emergencies, or world events, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up children. In the event of inclement weather conditions existing prior to the center's daily opening, parents/guardians may contact the center or check the website for information regarding closure or delays." An email will also be sent to the Educare email list to inform of any delays or early closures due to weather conditions.

November "A-Thon" Fitness Focus

This month's "a-thon" will be a toe touch-a-thon. Classrooms will be integrating the toe touches during their daily schedule and throughout the month. Teachers will record the number of completed toe touches weekly on the hallway bulletin board. Families are encouraged to pick up a calendar at the front desk to record the number of toe touches completed at home. We will include families totals on the bulletin board as well. Thanks for you participation in helping us to keep ELC children healthy and moving all month long!

November Cooking Fun & Thanksgiving Feast

This month's center-wide cooking fun project will be preparation for the center-wide Thanksgiving feast on November 22, 2011. This child-friendly feast will include chicken nuggets, macaroni & cheese, Jello, muffins, fruit salad and brownies. Each classroom is assigned an item to prepare as a group and bring to the feast for all to enjoy! Children will not need to bring a lunch on the 22nd since ELC will be providing the meal.

Reminder: Family Conferences

Individual classroom conferences will be held during the month of November. Conferences are held in the fall and spring. Conferences offer an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the child's progress. Sign-ups will be on each classroom door. If you are unable to attend a conference in person on the designated day, we encourage you to set up a phone conference with teachers.

Discovery Walks

Due to the upcoming hunting season and change of seasons, discovery walks will be taken on the upper ground only (no hunting is allowed on the premise; this is an extra precaution we are taking). All nature-focused walks will be on the treed side of the Tree house playground.

Online Tuition Payment Updates

Thanks to all of the families who are taking advantage of the online payment options at ELC. We have added the option to pay via credit card (Visa/Mastercard) directly from Intuit Payment Network. An additional payment link for Intuit Payment Network will also be available on the ELC Parent Information page. PayPal continues to be a payment option. If workable, we encourage families to make payments via Intuit bank to bank since that source offers the lowest service fee to Educare.

Holiday/Early Closures

ELC will be closed on Thursday, November 24, 2011 for Thanksgiving Day. We will be closing early at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 to allow staff extra time to spend with family during the holiday. We will operate as usual on Friday, November 25, 2011. Please let the front desk know of any planned absences during the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks in advance for your cooperation by arriving by 5:30 on the 23rd.

Scholastic Book Orders and Book Fair

Thanks to all families who participate in the monthly classroom scholastic book orders. Sales and points from the orders help classrooms to purchase books for libraries. The EFA will host a center-wide book fair during the last week in November. Books will also be available for purchase at the EFA Holiday Festival on December 3, 2011.

The "Why, What, How and When" of Family Conferences ~Susan Mogard, ELC Owner

Why? Research shows that children have better outcomes when parents participate meaningfully in children's programs/centers. Attending a parent-teacher conference is a meaningful way to support your child's growth and development.

What? In addition to providing information about your child's progress, conferences provide opportunities for teachers to learn more about children's lives at homes and parent's

expectations. Questions such as the following provide insights that help teachers individualize educational experiences for children:

- With whom does your child interact at home?
- How does your child handle stress when frustrated at home?
- What interests your child?
- What goals do you have for your child this year?

How? Parents are encouraged to sign up on conference sign-up sheets posted by each classroom door.

When? We hope all families will be sign up for a time to meet with teachers face-to-face but conferences can also be completed over the phone if scheduled conference days do not fit a family's schedule.



Stop by the Educare Exploration Station in the main hallway to see our new I-Spy Jar created by Ms. Janice!