



Educare Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter

October 2011

Welcome to a new school year at Educare!

Fall has arrived and a new school year session at Educare has started. We say a huge "Welcome!" to the new families this fall and "Welcome back!" to returning families.

Classroom Reminders

Please remember to bring in extra clothing conducive to fall weather (long sleeve shirts, pants). We have been experiencing a high volume of children with nut allergies, with the increase of this medical condition we ask that families be sensitive and try to pack "nut-free" lunches whenever possible. Room 3 has been designated a nut-free classroom. A suggested peanut-free alternative is sunflower butter, made from sunflower seeds.

Medication Policy Changes

The licensing Office of Child Care has made some revisions to the medication administration policies at child care centers. Effective July 1, 2011, over the counter pain medication such as Tylenol and Ibuprofen requires a doctor's note if it is to be administered more than once in the course of an illness. The revised medication forms include this new information.

Please review when filling out for any medication needs. Staff were required to attend a 6 hour training on the new medication administration guidelines. Only those who have attended the training can now administer medication. At least one staff member in each room is approved to administer medication.

Educare Quarterly Calendars

Many exciting events are planned and are noted on the attached fall calendar (October-December 2011). New calendars will be provided each quarter. Please post them at home for easy reference. Copies will also be posted on the parent board in the main hallway, ELC website and sent to families via email.

Curriculum Enhancements

After experiencing a very active summer focusing on physical fitness & health, we have decided to continue our new curriculum activities to enhance children's enjoyment of learning throughout the school year. **Cooking Up a Storm** will continue throughout the school year as a classroom curriculum experience. The **Let's Move initiative put forth by the White House** (www.letsmove.gov) has inspired us to keep children moving throughout the year with additional active play and exercise experiences. This will be the year of "**A-thons**" as children enjoy Walk-a-thons, Jump-a-thons, Run-a-thons, etc.

Annual Updates

Stop by the front desk to update your child(ren)'s emergency card and All About My Child. As required by licensing, we must have all updates completed by 10/31/11.

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 a designated day we encourage you to set up a phone conference.

Educare Updates E-mail List

Educare sends periodic emails to families about upcoming events and other program reminders. If you would like to be added to our updates list please email educare@educatewithcare.com with your contact information.

Educare Family Association

All families are members of the EFA upon enrollment at ELC. The EFA's focus is to support opportunities for families and children, to network and to raise funds to help enrich offerings provided to children and their families. Consider joining us for EFA monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month. Childcare is provided at no charge. If you have any suggestions about any fundraisers and/or parent events, send an email to the EFA at EFA@educatewithcare.com

Classifieds/Wanted

Educare is looking to buy a small used tractor (with 4 or 5 foot wide bucket) for the upkeep of our parking lot, playgrounds and Discovery Walk areas and a Zero Turn Radius Lawn Mower, preferably a commercial grade. If you have a source or any information regarding either item, please email or call Educare at 301-834-9007. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Parenting Tips to Start the Year Off Right

~Susan Mogard, ELC Owner

1. Keep in mind that a new school year is exciting and can be stressful for children. New classmates and new rooms equal tired children at the end of the day. Make sure to provide down time initially once at home.
2. Get to know your child's teachers. Read the bios on the staff bulletin board and greet staff as you enter and exit the program. Feel free to call to check on your children during the day.
3. Be aware that separation anxiety is normal and expected for young children at the beginning of the year and periodically. Some ideas for decreasing the difficulties children may experience is to talk about what will happen at school each day as each child enters his/her room. Talk about what they might do first, what they will eat for lunch, and when you will pick up.
4. Show interest in your child's day. Avoid using cell phones during arrival and departure times. Children need a parent's full attention for transitioning to and from the classroom.
5. Make sure children get adequate sleep each night. Talk to children about the importance of going to bed on time and enact a nighttime schedule that helps children wind down at the end of a big day.

EDUCARE LEARNING CENTER
2538 JEFFERSON PIKE
JEFFERSON, MD 21755

301-834-9007

WWW.EDUCATE
WITHCARE.COM

EDUCARE@EDUCATE
WITHCARE.COM



October Highlights:

Unit of Study: *Fall Happenings*

- October 5—EFA Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- October 8—Parent's Night Out (EFA), 4-9 p.m.
- October 11 & 12—Photo Days
- October 13—Fire Dept. Visit, 9:30 a.m.
- October 14—Tractor Visit, 9:30 a.m.
- October 17—Wendy Woo Woo's Pumpkin Patch, 9:30 a.m.
- October 21—ELC **CLOSED (In-service Day)**
- October 22—Trunk-or-Treat (EFA), 5-7 p.m.
- October 25—Parent Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
- October 28—Popcorn Trolley
- October 31—Fall Festival Classroom Parties & Parade, 10 a.m.