



July Highlights

Units of Study: (6/26-7/7), Nurture Nature (7/10-7/17) Water Wonders, (7/24-8/4) Deep Into The Woods

- June 30—4th of July Parade & Popsicles, 10 a.m. (all ages), Spirit Day: Wear Red, White and Blue
- June 30—Popcorn Trolley
- July 1—Monthly Tuition Due
- July 3—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- **July 4—ELC CLOSED (Independence Day)**
- July 5—Tim's Gems Mobile Mine (He, Ca)
- July 10—Brunswick Library & Picnic @ the Park (R, Ca, He)
- July 12—New Family Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
- July 12—Brunswick Senior Center Visit (He)
- July 13—Spirit Day: Sunglasses Day
- July 14—"Hokie Pokie Magic" Puppet Show, 10 a.m. (all ages)
- July 15—Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
- July 17—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- July 17—Franklin Pool/Water Park (He)
- July 18—FCPL Bookmobile
- July 19—Fitness Fun Day
- July 22—ELC Family Night Out @ the Frederick Keys Baseball Game (Fireworks Night), 6 p.m.
- July 25—Movies & Picnic at the Park (Ca, He)
- July 27—Alex's Lemonade Stand, 3-6 p.m.
- July 28—Frederick Keys Baseball Mascot Visit, "Keyote", 10 a.m. Spirit Day: Wear Orange, Black and White (Keys and Orioles Baseball Team Colors)
- July 28—Popcorn Trolley
- July 31—Bi-weekly Tuition Due

Key:
Green—Off-site Field Trips
Blue—Special On-site events (all ages)
Orange—Family Events
Red—Closures (in-service day, holiday)

Summer Curriculum Overview

Summer Programming: Explore the Nature of Maryland!

The Nature of Maryland will be explored this summer at Educare Learning Center. Insects, water life, plant life, forest animals, and reptiles of Maryland will be the focus of our summer-long study of the Nature of Maryland. In addition, children will enjoy water play days, Discovery Walks, Cooking Fun, Music Classes, and special events. Preschool through school-age will participate in off-site field trips and all ages will enjoy on-site special events.

Children of all ages at Educare this summer will explore what makes Maryland wonderful. Five fun-filled summer sessions will make the unique nature of Maryland come alive for children, families, and staff!

- **Creepy Crawlers (6/12-6/23)** Recognizing and Respecting Insects of Maryland
- **Nurture Nature (6/26-7/7)** Appreciating the Lush Plant Life of Maryland
- **Water Wonders (7/10-7/21)** Understanding the importance of water life to Maryland
- **Deep into the Woods (7/24-8/4)** Exploring Animals of Maryland's Forests
- **Ancient Animals (8/7-8/18)** Researching the Many Reptiles that Help Keep Nature in Balance
- **Summer Wrap-Up (8/21-8/31)** Nature of Maryland Trivia, Bubblemania, Game Days, etc.



Summer Events Highlights



Family Events at Educare

- ◆ **Alex's Lemonade Stand: Foundation for Childhood Cancer** – Educare families are invited to support children's cancer research through donations made to Alex's Lemonade Stand. Children in the Heron's Room will be hosting their own Alex's Lemonade Stand on-site this summer at the front desk. Families are invited to visit Educare's fundraiser page at <https://www.alexlemonade.org/mypage/1325641> for additional information and to make an online donation. A donation jar will be located at the front desk at ELC all summer long. All proceeds will be donated directly to Alex's Lemonade Stand. Lemonade Stand Dates: 6/23, 7/27, 8/21, 3-6 p.m.
- ◆ **Independence Day Parade and Popsicles, 6/30, 10 a.m.**— Classrooms will make instruments and decorations to celebrate Independence Day at Educare. An All-Program Patriotic Parade will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 30 to honor our country. Special songs will be sung and popsicles will be distributed to everyone. Families are encouraged to participate in this event as a parade-watcher or as a parade participant. Parking lot chains will be put up at 9:45 a.m. to ensure the safety of all participants.
- ◆ **New Family Orientation, 7/12, 5:30 p.m.** — All parents/guardians are welcome to attend an orientation meeting at Educare on July 12 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This meeting will include an opportunity to network with other parents/guardians, review Educare policy guidelines, participate in a question-answer session with Ms. Janice and other parents, and enjoy light refreshments. Child care will be available for all ages. Please return your reply card to the front desk to ensure proper staffing for child care. *Note: New families are strongly encouraged to attend a parent orientation; however, all current families are welcome to attend to review information about Educare's program policies.*
- ◆ **ELC Family Night Out @ the Frederick Keys Baseball Game, 7/22, 6 p.m.** — All families are invited to come out to a Frederick Keys Baseball Game (Harry Grove Stadium, 22 Stadium Drive, Frederick). General admission tickets can be purchased in advance for a discounted group rate (\$8/adults, \$6 youth (3-12 years), children 2 years old and younger are free, but must have a ticket to enter the stadium. Fun Zone wrist bands can also be purchased in advance for a discounted rate of \$7/each (regularly \$15). This night is the Keys "Home Improvement Night," featuring an appearance by Richard Karn, the actor who played Al Borland on the show. The Keys will wear special "plaid" uniforms and there will be fireworks after the game. **Sign up at the front desk today to reserve your tickets. Payment is due to the front desk by July 7.**

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Educare Newsletter



Summer 2017 Family Newsletter

July & August

August Highlights

Unit of Study: (7/24-8/4) *Deep Into the Woods*, (8/7-8/18) *Ancient Animals*, (8/21-8/31) *Summer Wrap-Up*

- August 1—Monthly Tuition Due
- August 1—FCPL Bookmobile
- August 2—Frederick Keys Game (He)
- August 4—Pool Day (He)
- August 5—Parent's Night Out, 4-9 p.m. (EFA)
- August 8—Fitness Fun Day
- August 9—Critters Animal Visit, 9:30 a.m.
- August 9—Brunswick Senior Center Visit (He)
- August 10—Spirit Day: Hat Day
- August 11—Picnic @ Merryland Park with the Brunswick Senior Center (He)
- August 14—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- August 15—Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
- August 15—FCPL Bookmobile
- August 17—Planetarium Show, "Dinosaurs Alive!" (Ca, He)
- August 18—"Smokey Bear" Visit and National Park Service Presentation, 10:00 a.m.
- August 21—Alex's Lemonade Stand, 3-6 p.m.
- August 22—Pump It Up (Ca, He)
- August 23—Brunswick Senior Center Visit (He)
- August 25—Pool Day (He)
- August 25—Popcorn Trolley
- August 28—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- August 28—Picnic @ Pinecliff Park (R, Ca, He)
- August 29—FCPL Bookmobile
- August 10—Bingo & Ice Cream with the Brunswick Senior Center (He Only)
- August 31—Last day of ELC Summer Program

• September 1—ELC CLOSED (In-service Day)

• September 4—ELC CLOSED (Labor Day)

• September 5—First day of School -year Program

Key:

Green—Off-site Field Trips

Blue—Special On-site events (all ages)

Orange—Family Events

Red—Closures (in-service day, holiday)

- ◆ **Parent's Night Out, 8/5, 4-9 p.m.**—The next Parent's Night Out will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 4-9 p.m. Cost \$30 for the first child, \$50 for a family (cash payment required). Sign up at the front desk; spaces are limited. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring shoes for outdoor play. Children will enjoy an evening of pancakes and fun!

Program Curriculum Enhancements for All Classrooms

- ◆ **Discovery Walks**—Children will continue to go on monthly Discovery Walks with Ms. Janice in July and August. Herons and Cardinals will enjoy special Creek Days where children explore the lower Creek area of the Educare grounds.
- ◆ **Cooking Fun**—Classrooms will make summer goodies coordinated with the summer themes—red-white-blue salads, snow cones, smoothies, trail mix and more.
- ◆ **Music** (weekly)—Ms. Janice will integrate songs focusing on summer themes during music on Thursdays.
- ◆ **Fitness Fun Days**—Children will enjoy fitness fun on the school age playground (obstacle courses, parachutes, balance beams, etc.) July 19, August 8
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile**—The Frederick County Public Library will visit Educare every other Tuesday during the summer. Children will check out books to use in the classroom.
- ◆ **Fitness Fun through Water Play**—Each classroom will participate in weekly water play days at Educare. Children need to bring/wear suits, water play shoes, towels, and sun hats to the center on designated water play days.
- ◆ **Spirit Days**—Children are invited to participate in various Spirit Days throughout the summer: 6/30—Red, White and Blue Day, 7/13—Sunglasses Day, 7/28—Wear Orange, White and/or Black (Orioles and Keys Baseball Team Colors), 8/10—Hat Day

Special Events at Educare for All Classrooms

- ◆ **"Hokey Pokey Magic" Puppet Show, Friday, 7/14, 10 a.m.**—Mr. Joe and "friends" will perform a puppet show for all children to enjoy. www.wondermentpuppets.com
- ◆ **Frederick Keys Mascot Visit, "Keyote," Friday, 7/28, 10 a.m.** Keyote will visit ELC to celebrate a favorite summer past-time—baseball—and to kick-off the Heron's Field Trip to the Key's Baseball Game on August 2.
- ◆ **Critters & Conservation Animal Visit, Wednesday, 8/9, 9:30 a.m.**—Melissa Kowalski of Critters & Conservation will perform a live animal show for all children. To supplement our "Ancient Animals" unit of study, live animals (Lesser Tenrec, Bearded Dragon, Red Belly Parrot, and Madagascar Dead Leaf Mantis) will be presented outside of their carriers for viewing and gentle handling. www.crittersandconservation.com

Program Events Specific to Individual Classrooms

- ◆ **Tim's Gems Mobile Mine Visit, Wednesday, 7/5, 10:00 a.m. (Cardinals/Herons)**—Tim's Gems Mobile Mine will visit children in the Cardinal's and Heron's classes to "mine" for gems and fossils. Children will go home with their own bag of treasures that they find. www.timsgems.net
- ◆ **"Smokey Bear" Visit and National Park Service Presentation, Friday, 8/18, 10:00 a.m. (Herons)**—"Smokey Bear" and Ms. Cynthia (Ms. Anna's Aunt will visit the Herons for a presentation on the National Park Service. "Smokey Bear" will also make an appearance in the Cardinals for a Meet & Greet/Photo Session.
- ◆ **Off-Site Field Trips:** Children in the Robins, Cardinals, and Herons will participate in the following off-site field trips:
 - Robins will enjoy a visit to the Catoctin Creek Nature Center, Ballenger Creek Park, Brunswick Library, and Pinecliff Park.
 - Cardinals will enjoy a visit to Catoctin Creek Nature Center, Ballenger Creek Park, Brunswick Library, Movie Theatre, Planetarium, Pump It Up and Pinecliff Park.
 - Herons will enjoy a visit to Catoctin Creek Nature Center, Brunswick Senior Center, Ballenger Creek Park, Brunswick Library, Franklin Water Park/Pool, Movie Theatre, Frederick Keys Baseball Game, Merryland Park, Planetarium, Pump It Up and Pinecliff Park.
- ◆ **Brunswick Senior Citizens Partnership:** School-age children (Herons) will visit the Brunswick Senior Citizen Center in small groups to do crafts and play Bingo throughout





the summer. For added fun, the children will participate in a field trip with the Senior Citizens Merryland Park on August 11 and the Seniors will visit Educare for Ice Cream and Bingo on August 30.

- ◆ **Big Buddies Club:** Interested school-age children (Herons) will once again act as helpers for a short time each day in younger children's classrooms (except infants and toddlers) as a way to promote a greater sense of community at Educare and also leadership skills in our school-agers.



Program Reminders

- ◆ **Parking Lot Safety**—Maryland Law states that an unattended vehicle may not be left idling in parking lots. In addition, it is against Maryland Law to leave a child under the age of 8 years old unattended in a motor vehicle. Failure to follow these laws could result in a fine, points on your license or a mandatory court appearance. Please be considerate for the safety of our ELC children and families during drop-off and pick-up times.
- ◆ **Outdoor Reminders**—We will be using sunscreen (and bug spray as applicable) on exposed skin when going outdoors. Check with your child's room to confirm that you have these items at ELC (non-expired). Children will be outdoors in the evening. Families are to check in at the front desk to sign children out before going to the playgrounds to pick up children. When possible please enter and exit through the building so we can confirm the child has left the building. Families who leave through the gates should check to ensure that the gate is secure with locks applied (if applicable) upon exit from the playground. This ensures the safety of children at all times.
- ◆ **Summer Safety**—As per recommendation by pediatricians, children's sun safety should include wearing 3-inch brimmed hats when outside to protect their eyes, ears, neck and faces from direct sunlight. ELC requests that all children have hats to wear for outside play to decrease exposure to harmful sunrays and dress children appropriate for summer play along with close toed shoes, t-shirts, non-strappy shirts. Teachers will always apply sunscreen during all outside play times but sunscreen does not protect children's eyes or scalp. It is also suggested that children wear sunglasses (as age appropriate). Teachers will be teaching children Sun-safe rules which are posted in each classroom. We encourage families to review the rules with children, as well. 1) We wear sunscreen to keep our bodies safe, 2) We wear hats and sunglasses to protect us, 3) We find the shade; it's cool, 4) We drink water; it makes us healthy. ELC administration uses airnow.gov to monitor the air quality daily (posted at the front desk) and follows the codes to guide outdoor playtime for children as applicable.
- ◆ **Vacation Dates/Summer Only Attendance**—Please continue to inform the front desk of any planned absences and/or last day of summer attendance for those who are not returning in the fall or who are attending just for our summer program.
- ◆ **Calendar Reminders:**
 - August 31—The last day of ELC's summer program
 - September 1—ELC Closed (In-service Day)
 - September 4—ELC Closed (Labor Day)
 - September 5—First Day of ELC School-year Program /First Day of FCPS (Frederick County Public Schools)

Educare Family Association

- ◆ **EFA Meeting:** The Educare Family Association meets periodically throughout the year. The Educare Family Association (EFA) supports ELC children and families through program offerings and activities in an effort to build community and enhance program offerings for children. EFA requires no fees for participation. Childcare is provided at no charge for quarterly meetings. **Join the Educare Family Association facebook Group**—Join the EFA Closed Group created exclusively for families currently enrolled at ELC to stay up to date with family events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EducareFamilyAssociation/>
 - **Next EFA Meeting:** A special planning session will be held in July to plan the upcoming school-year (Date TBD). The EFA has been working on making enhancements to the Discovery Walk Path (more details to come).



Are you on our list? Stay up to date with all of the happenings at Educare!

- **Email**— Families who are not currently on the Educare email list will need to contact the front desk or email educare@educatewithcare.com to be added. This email list is also used to communicate general program reminders (3-4 x/month).
- **Text Messages**— Families are encouraged to sign up to receive text message alerts directly from ELC by texting the keyword "Educare" to 84483. This text message option will only be used to communicate planned/unplanned disruptions to normal operation (delays, early closures and/or full day closures).
- **Educare Online Suggestion Box**—ELC has created an online suggestion box to receive anonymous suggestions, comments, and/or feedback throughout the year. Suggestion box website link: <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=gc5d0k1atq3jrxp275010>
- **"Like us" on facebook**--@EducareLearningCenterJefferson to receive program updates and reminders <https://www.facebook.com/EducareLearningCenterJefferson/>

