



Educare Learning Center

Dear Educare Families,

November 1, 2016

Winter will soon be here...which means it is time to revisit our inclement weather* policy.

As stated in the Educare Parent/Guardian Policy Handbook:

Educare makes every effort to stay open for scheduled program hours. 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 (www.educatewithcare.com) for information regarding delays or closures. When it is necessary to close during the day of operation due to weather, community emergencies or world events, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up children.

Delayed Opening on Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Inclement Weather Closure Days

When FCPS announce an unplanned closure due to inclement weather, Educare will delay opening until 7:30 a.m. Information regarding the delayed opening will be stated by 6:00 a.m. on the answering machine at Educare (301-834-9007) and on the website www.educatewithcare.com. Families who generally arrive between 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. are encouraged to call the center or check the website whenever the weather poses possible unsafe travel conditions.

Early Closures

To ensure the safety of families and teachers, the decision may be made to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions during the day. ELC will contact families via email, text message and make direct phone calls as necessary to ensure families are able to pick up their children in a timely manner.

Other Closures

There may be times when it is necessary to close the center completely for the entire day due to extreme weather conditions and/or declared state of emergencies by local government officials (i.e. hurricanes, blizzards, multiple road closures, etc.).

Modes of Communication Regarding Changes to Center-wide Operation Due to Inclement Weather

ELC will use the following to communicate unplanned changes to operating hours:

- **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 or register directly via the website www.rainedout.net (search Educare Learning Center). This text message option will only be used to communicate unplanned disruptions to normal operation (delays, early closures and/or full day closures).
- **Website**—<http://www.educatewithcare.com> Information will be posted on the home page.
- **Voice Mail Message**—The voice mail message on the main line 301-834-9007 will reflect any information regarding any change to normal operation (delay/closures).
- **ELC Facebook Page**—Updates will be posted on ELC's Facebook Page [@EducareLearningCenterJefferson](https://www.facebook.com/EducareLearningCenterJefferson). “Like us” today!

Preschool-Hours-Only Program (Blue Jays)

The preschool-hours-only program in Room 5 (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) follows the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) calendar regarding inclement weather days. If FCPS are closed, the preschool-hours-only classes will also be closed. In the event of a FCPS school delay, the preschool-hours-only program will also delay. For example, if FCPS are on a two-hour delay, preschool will be held from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

School-Age Program

When FCPS are delayed or closed due to inclement weather, extra charges are assessed to families based on the hours children attend (\$7.00/hour or \$21.50/day). These charges will be reflected on the next tuition statement.

Please feel free to contact Educare at 301-834-9007 or educare@educatewithcare.com with any questions.

Sincerely,
Educare Administration

*Definition of “inclement weather” to include accumulating snow, ice, sleet, blizzard and/or hazardous road conditions.