

# St. James Early Learning Center

## NEWSLETTER

December 2024

### Important Dates

- Dec. 1-24 | Advent Dinners (Wednesday Evenings @5:30)
- Dec. 2 | No School For GASD
- Dec. 7 | Breakfast w/ Santa 🎅
- Dec. 13 | Early Dismissal for GASD
- Dec. 18 | Wish Tree Items Due 📦
- Dec. 21 | First Day Of Winter ❄️
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 | No School for GASD (Winter Break)
- **Dec. 24 - 25 | SJELC CLOSED - Merry Christmas!** 🎄
- **Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 | SJELC CLOSED - Happy New Year!** 🎉



### What's In This Month's Issue?

- Important Dates
- Center Happenings
- Adams County Giving Spree
- Wish Tree
- Advent Meals- Wednesday
- C.A.R.E.S
- Sick Policy /Flu Shots
- Holiday Survey
- Weather Closure or Delays
- 2025 Tuition Rates
- Emergency Contacts & Fee Agreements
- CCW-Child Care Works



### CENTER HAPPENINGS

#### Signing In/Out

YOU MUST SIGN YOUR CHILD(REN) IN AND OUT DAILY! This is for accountability in case we must evacuate the center at any point of the day. If you do not know where your classroom sign in/out sheet is located, please ask and we will show you where to find it. Additionally, please be as accurate as possible for the PPU time (Projected Pick Up) so we can staff accordingly each day.

#### Center Wide Breakfast

Breakfast is served every morning from 6:30-8:00 A.M. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please have them here before 8:00 A.M., so they have an opportunity to eat before breakfast is put away for the day. We also ask that parents do not bring in additional breakfast or alternative breakfast items. As a center, we provide a variety of foods that are part of our food program options. If you prefer that your child eats items that you provide, please make sure they eat their breakfast before being dropped off in their classrooms.



### Adams County Giving Spree

**THANK YOU** to all of those who generously supported St. James Early Learning Center by donating at this year's Adams County Giving Spree! On December 13th, we will find out how much we received for our scholarship program and the replacement of our classroom equipment and materials for all of our little friends to enjoy! The children, the staff, and the entire program thanks you!

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### Giving Spree

Thank you, Adams County!

ACCFGivingSpree.org

THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US

ST. JAMES  
Early  
Learning  
Center



## WISH TREE 🎄🎁

Each classroom has chosen an ornament design (see below) for our wish tree (located across from the large glass windows between the two toddler rooms). On the back of each ornament will be a gift wish from the classrooms. Items consist of toys/games, activities, materials, etc. that they “wish” to add to their classrooms.

Once ornaments have been added to the tree, families may choose any ornament off the tree that they would like to purchase. Wrap them and use the ornament as a tag, placing it back under the tree. Families may choose any ornament for any classroom, not just their own child’s room(s) and families may choose one or a few - we appreciate any/all wish gifts!

We do ask that all wish gifts be placed back under the tree by Wednesday, December 18th, so children can have the remainder of the week and the beginning of the next week to open gifts before leaving for Christmas break. 😊

- Infants - Snowmen
- Young Toddlers - Gingerbread Men
- Older Toddlers - Stars
- Preschool - Bluey
- Pre-K-Christmas Pickle
- Kids Club - Polar Express Tickets
- Kitchen - Sunflowers



  
**Merry  
Christmas**

## Wednesday's 🚗

Wednesday parking is always a fun game of chance! As you know, Youth Group is held from 3:30-5:00 PM every Wednesday during the school year.

Now to add to the parking chaos, Advent is beginning and will continue through Christmas. The church congregation has a mid-week worship meal that starts at 5:15 PM every Wednesday (right as the Youth Group is letting out).

As you can assume, this will continue to shake up our parking availability on Wednesday evenings. Please plan accordingly and be patient with other families and church members as we all attempt to navigate our small parking lot.

Lastly, with that being said, we would like to remind all families with larger vehicles to please park at the top of the lot closer to the road so other vehicles can still get through and keep traffic flowing.



## C.A.R.E.S. 🏠

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) will be staying on the 3rd floor of the church in the evenings, and having a morning meal in our youth house over the course of the winter. They should be off the premises by 7-7:30AM and not returning until 6:00PM We ask that you **DO NOT** let people into the childcare center that you do not know! If you are unsure of someone at the door, please tell them you will get someone to assist them and find an administrator to let them know someone is at the door. It could be a family member or it could be someone confused on where they should go for assistance. We can help direct them. Thank you for understanding!



## Sick Policy / Flu Shots 🤧

### Fever/Sick Policy 🤒

With the constantly changing weather; along comes constantly challenging germs! We do our best to clean and disinfect our classrooms, toys, and materials used among the children daily. Children with a fever (100.4) or other illness that requires time away from school (vomiting, diarrhea, ect), may return when they have been symptom/fever-FREE for 24 hours withOUT symptom/fever-reducing medication (Tylenol & Motrin). If your child comes to school and begins showing reoccurring symptoms halfway through the day, you will be called to pick up your child again and will have to restart the 24-hour period. Please take care in making sure your child is healthy and can function in day-to-day activities before returning them back to school, to help keep everyone healthy and functioning at their best! Giving your child medication to get through the day, does not keep children (or staff) healthy, it only allows them to spread more germs putting everyone at risk. Keep in mind; when we don't have staff, you don't have childcare.

### Flu Shots 🤒

All children aged 6 months - 6 years are required to have a flu vaccination. Please provide the office with updated immunization inform if a flu shot has been given recently. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated, please complete an exemption form located on the bulletin board outside the office.



## Holiday Survey

The holidays are quickly approaching and planning has begun for you and the childcare. We send out a holiday survey each year to see who will need care during the broken holiday week. We staff classrooms according to our family's needs; we may adjust opening and closing times, however not likely.

Please copy & paste the link into your web browser to complete the survey. If we don't hear from you then we will assume no care is needed that week.

<https://forms.gle/v9CbUDXxftQ6sKty5>



## Weather ❄️ / Snow Delays & Closures ❄️🧑🏻‍🎄



### Inclement Weather-Snow Delay Closures ☁️

In the event that snow happens to impact our day, we will notify families through Lillio (HiMama) via text message or email. We will also post on social media and the St. James Church website, under Early Learning and will be listed on WGAL. We do our very best to keep the center open and take many contributing factors into our decision-making, balancing the overall safety, of the staff, families, and children is our number one concern.

### School Age Families 👨👩

If the school district closes for snow/remote learning day, we will **NOT** have all-day care available. We do not have the flexibility to meet the many different time requests for remote days.

Delays & Early Closure- We will accommodate these needs to the best of our ability. In the event that a delayed opening for the district results in a closure/ remote day, we will keep the school- age children, and provide full-day care. We are **NOT** responsible for remote work that needs to be completed for their attendance.





# 2025 Tuition Rates

	4 – 5 Days	3 Days	2 Days			
<b>Infant</b>	\$268.00	\$201.00	\$139.00			
<b>Young Toddler</b>	\$263.00	\$197.25	\$136.75			
<b>Older Toddler</b>	\$258.00	\$193.50	\$134.25			
<b>Preschool &amp; Pre-K</b>	\$248.00	\$186.00	\$129.00			
<b>School Agers</b>						
School Year (Flat weekly rate)	Before School	\$92.00	After School	\$97.00	Before & After	\$168.00
<b>Summer-School Age Care</b>						
	\$248.00		\$186.00		\$129.00	

Rate increase are based on a 10 hour daily enrollment, per child. We don't encourage children to be here a full 10 hours or more. This makes for a long day for anyone in a group setting.

There is a 10 minute grace period, before an additional fee is added to next weeks tuition. Please see your tuition sheet for additional fee.



## Emergency Contacts & Fee Agreements

### Emergency Contacts:

We will be updating Emergency contact forms and fee agreements, in the month of December.

If you have major changes to your emergency contacts please complete a new form. They are located in the black folders in both hallways and available on our web page.

### Fee Agreements:

Updated fee agreement will reflect the 2025 tuition rates. They will go into effect, on 1/2/25. If you would like to make any changes, please let me know as soon as possible.

Arrival and Pick Up times, should reflect the times your child needs care, to provide proper staffing.



## CCW (Child Care Works)

As we all have come to realize, the cost of living has increased tremendously and has not shown any mercy as of yet. With that being said, we understand the cost of childcare is just as important as any of our other bills we have to pay - just so working families can continue to work and provide for their families.

CCW (Child Care Works) is a subsidized childcare assistance program designed to help low & middle - income families who need childcare. We would like to make all of our families aware that CCW has improved their guidelines on what incomes qualify for assistance, in the hopes of helping more of our "middle-class" families!

If you think your family may qualify for it, please look into these new guidelines and try applying! 😊 Every little bit helps. Visit the Compass website, copy and paste the link below:

<https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/home/#/>

