

St. James Early Learning Center

NEWSLETTER

Happy
New Year

IMPORTANT DATES



- Jan 1 | SJELC CLOSED: Happy New Year! 🎆
- Jan 4 | St. James ELC's 35 Year Celebration
- Jan 19 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Center OPEN)

- Staff Birthday's
 - Miss Amanda (11th), Miss Cianna (29th), Miss Dom (31st)
- Staff Anniversary's:
 - Miss Dom: 4 years on 1/10, Miss Kathy: 7 years on 1/21, Miss Erica: 5 years on 1/25

- **Looking Ahead..** Groundhogs Day, Valentines Day



CENTER INFO

Center Hours:

The Early Learning Center is open from 6:30AM to 5:30PM. Tuition rates are based on a 10-hour daily enrollment and are monitored through sign-in sheets and Lillio attendance. Please plan accordingly and try to keep your drop off time NO EARLIER and your pick up time NO LATER than what is stated on your Fee Agreements. We understand that things come up from time to time, and we appreciate families letting us know if/when those situations may arise.

Breakfast:

Breakfast is served every morning from 7:00-8:00AM. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please have them here before 8:00AM, 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 with you before being dropped off into their classrooms.

January

2026

Happy New Year

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Important Dates
- Center Info
 - Hours
 - Breakfast
- Weather Delays/Closures
 - SJELC
 - GASD/Kids Club
- Outdoor Reminders
- Parking Lot
 - Youth Group
 - Large Vehicles
- Scholastic
- Flu Shots
- Wish Tree
- Emergency Contact Forms & Fee Agreements
- 2026 Tuition Rates
- Flyers
 - Sickness/Illness Policy
 - C.A.R.E.S./Keycard/Call Button

HAPPY
Anniversary!



35th
ANNIVERSARY





WEATHER DELAYS AND CLOSURES



Inclement Weather-Snow Delay Closures ☁️

If snow impacts our day, we will notify families through Lillio (HiMama) via text or email. We will also post on social media and the St. James Church website (under Early Learning), and it 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 overall safety. Keeping children, families, and our center staff safe during inclement weather is our number one concern.

School Age Families 🙄🙄

If the school district closes for a **snow or 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 or school closures.

Delays and Early Closures: 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 who have already arrived at that point and provide full-day care. However, we are **NOT** responsible for remote work that needs to be completed for their attendance. If the district closes early, we will walk the school-age children back to the center as normal, but please be prepared to pick up your children in the event that we would also close early.



OUTDOOR REMINDERS

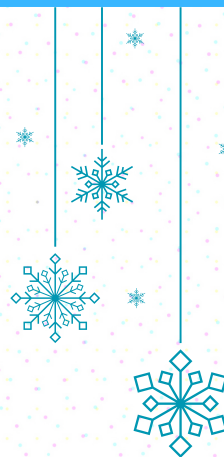
Recess (Outdoor) Time & Extra Clothes:

Our goal is to go outside daily. Please make sure your child has suitable outdoor clothing. Sweatshirts, coats/jackets, hats, gloves. Children may also leave a light jacket or sweatshirt in their cubbies for when the classrooms are extra chilly.

Children need to have a sweatshirt/jacket on if the real-feel temp is 50 degrees or below.

Please check with your children's teachers that their "extra clothes" bins also have weather-appropriate clothing (and correct sizes) in case they need a change of clothes here at school.

Lastly, all children must also have **runable closed-toe shoes every day!**



PARKING LOT

Youth Group:

Youth Group is held on **MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS!** On both days, Youth Group ends at 5:00PM. This will shake up our parking availability around 4:45-5:15 on Monday AND Wednesday evenings as children are being picked up.

Parking:

Reminding all families that St. James ELC parking is located at the back of the building (larger vehicles - please park at the top of the lot closer to the road so other vehicles can still get through and can keep the flow of traffic moving). We are not responsible for tickets, tows, etc. if you are parking elsewhere.

SCHOLASTIC



Scholastic book order flyers are available in the hallway by the side door entrance. If you are interested in ordering books, you can order through the scholastic website by searching Gettysburg's zip code (17325) and finding "St James Early Learning Center", or "Ashley Drechsler", OR by our center code: GZT46.

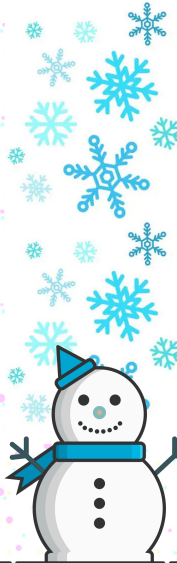
FLU SHOTS



All children aged 6 months to 6 years is required to have a flu vaccination. The flu is known to peak during the months of October through March. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated this season, please complete and return the exemption form located outside the office.

WISH TREE

HUGE thank you to all the families who contributed to our wish tree gifts! Everyone had fun opening their classroom gifts!



EMERGENCY CONTACTS AND FEE AGREEMENTS

Emergency Contact Forms and Fee Agreements have been sent out and mostly returned. If changes are still needed or if there is any missing information, we will be reaching back out to you. If you have not completed either of these, please do so as soon as possible.

Emergency Contact Forms:

Every family is required to fill out a new Emergency Contact Form for each of their children enrolled in our program. Forms are located in the black hanging organizers in the entry hallway and in front of the office. Forms are also available on our web page.

Fee Agreements:

All new Fee Agreements will reflect the 2026 tuition rates. They will go into effect, on 1/5/26. Arrival and departure times should reflect the times your children need care, to provide proper staffing. Please be mindful of our 10hr/day policy to avoid extra charges.

2026 TUITION RATES

	4 – 5 Days		3 Days		2 Days	
Infant	\$286.00		\$214.50		\$148.72	
Young Toddler	\$281.00		\$210.75		\$146.12	
Older Toddler	\$276.00		\$207.00		\$143.52	
Preschool & Pre-K	\$266.00		\$199.50		\$138.32	
School Ageds						
School Year <i>(Flat weekly rate)</i>	Before School	\$100.00	After School	\$105.00	Before & After	\$180.00
Summer-School Age Care						
		\$266.00		\$199.50		\$138.32

Tuition rates 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. Attendance over 10 hours will result in additional fees being added to the following week's tuition. Please see your tuition forms for more information.

SICKNESS/ILLNESS POLICY



We do our best to clean and disinfect classrooms, toys and materials used among the children daily. However, if and when your child(ren) get sick - we ask that you honor the 24-hour recuperation policy. **CHILDREN MUST BE SYMPTOM FREE FOR 24 HOURS!** You are not permitted to give your children medication that masks any sickness/illnesses. This includes medication for vomiting, diarrhea, and fevers.

100.4+ Fevers: Temperatures that are 100.4 or higher are considered a fever. Children may return to school when their temperature has been consistently normal for a full 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Vomiting: Children may return 24 hours after symptoms are gone and can consume regular foods again, including the consumption of milk.

Diarrhea: Children may return to school 24 hours after symptoms are gone and are back to consistently normal bowel movements. Bowel movements must be contained inside the diaper, or (if potty trained) - can make it to the bathroom in time.

Antibiotics: Children must be on an antibiotic for a full 24 hours before returning to the center. This helps prevent the spread of illness and allows parents to monitor their children for any reactions that may occur due to the medication.

We understand the importance of having your children with us, but also how crucial it is to keep other children healthy, and our staff in good health, so we can continue to care for everyone's children collectively.

It is important to know that if your child comes back to school and begins to show reoccurring symptoms halfway through the day, you will be called to pick up your child again and will have to restart the 24-hour recuperation period. Giving your children medication "to get through the day", does not keep other children (or staff) healthy. So please make sure you are doing your part and ensuring that your child is fully back to themselves and can function in day-to-day activities (this includes being able to actively play, take naps as normal, back to regular toileting habits, and the ability to consume all planned meals/drinks throughout the day) before returning them back to school.

Lastly, if your children are on medication for any other reason, we need to know about it in the case of an emergency. The last thing we would want is for your child to be over-medicated if emergency personnel would have to administer life saving medication. Thank you for understanding.



DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR FOR ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW!

This is to keep YOUR child safe, AND to keep OTHER CHILDREN safe, at all times.

If you are not sure of someone at the door, please tell them you will get someone to assist them; and then you are to find an administrator to let them know someone is at the door.

It could be a family member of a child here at the center or it could be someone confused on where they should go for assistance.

We can help direct them either way.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD BE MAKING SURE THEY ARE BRINGING THEIR KEY CARD WITH THEM TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP THEIR CHILDREN EVERY DAY.

The call button next to the door is for individuals who are not part of our program and would need to be let in by an employee. If you no longer have your keycard and need to pay the replacement fee for a new one, please get in touch with a director ASAP.

Thank you for understanding!

C.A.R.E.S.

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) will soon be next door to us again. C.A.R.E.S. is expected to begin on Monday November 1st and continue through until the spring.

CALL BUTTON VS. SUPERVISION

Each time the call button is used, it is not always guaranteed that an administrator will be available to answer it. When that happens, teachers in the classroom would then need to answer the doorbell, and this takes supervision away from the children in their care. Please use your keycard!