

# St. James Early Learning Center

## NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- Apr. 1 | April Fool's Day!
- Apr. 2 | [Wear Blue for Autism Awareness!](#)
- Apr. 3 | **CENTER CLOSED!** Good Friday/Easter Weekend!
- Apr. 11-17 | Week of the Young Child! (See Flyer)
- Apr. 17 | VBS Volunteering Event 3:30-5:30 PM
- Apr. 22 | Earth Day!
- Staff Birthday's
  - No Staff Birthdays
- Staff Anniversary's:
  - Miss Cianna: 2 years on 4/8
- **Looking Ahead..** Teacher Appreciation Week, Mother's Day, Memorial Day



**April  
2026**

### WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- **Important Dates**
- **Center Info**
  - Doors/Gates, Pick Up's
  - Hours
  - Breakfast
  - Naptime Items
- **Scholastic**
- **Autism Awareness Day**
- **Summer Schedule Changes**
  - Infants-PreK
  - School Age
- **Parking Lot/Youth Group**
- **VBS Volunteering Event**
- **Outdoor Reminders**
- **Weather Delays/Closures**
  - SJELC
  - GASD/Kids Club
- **Week of the Young Child**

### CENTER INFO



#### Doors/Gates, Adult Pick Up's

Children can only be released to parents/legal guardians that are pre-listed on their Emergency Contact Forms. Siblings are not permitted to collect children even when an adult is in the building - an adult must be present before staff can allow children to leave the room. Along with this, please make sure gates and/or doors are closed behind you or other adults/children that are with you. Doors/Gates are in place to help ensure safety to all children in the room.

#### Center Hours:

The Early Learning Center is open from 6:30AM to 5:30PM. [Tuition rates are based on a 10-hour daily enrollment.](#) Please plan accordingly to keep your drop off time NO EARLIER and your pick up time NO LATER than what is stated on your Fee Agreements.

#### 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.

#### Naptime Items:

All naptime items need to be taken home on Friday's to be washed and returned by Monday. This will help minimize the spread of germs from week to week!



## SCHOLASTIC



St. James ELC provides families with scholastic flyers each month that are FILLED with fun, interactive, educational, and holiday themed books, book sets, games, and activities for children of all ages! Use these flyers to expand your children's home libraries, to use as gifts for friends or family, and to work together to advocate the importance of books and reading!

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 zipcode (17325) and finding "St. James Early Learning Center", or Ashley Drechsler", OR by our center code: GZT46



## AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



Light the world up BLUE to show solidarity and to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)! On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, wear blue to promote acceptance and encourage inclusion for individuals with Autism. 1 in 100 children are affected by ASD, and may have difficulties with social interactions, communication, and stepping out of routine schedules. World Autism Awareness Day is to educate the public, reduce stigma, assist in advocating for early diagnosis and intervention, and to support children (and adults) with Autism!



## Summer Schedule Changes



### Summer 2026

Time is moving fast! So please (if you haven't already) start thinking about what your summer schedule will look like for your children.

Please keep in mind that all schedule changes must be in writing at least two weeks BEFORE any changes can be made. If your child(ren) are going down to part time for the summer, we need to know by Friday April 24th, so we can begin fulfilling and finalizing summer enrollment and staffing before the summer months actually get here. We will soon be reaching out to the community waitlist to start filling any spots that have not yet been reserved for our in-house children. If you miss the deadline to tell us what your summer days will be, there is no promise that you will have the schedule you would like. Thank you for understanding.

### School-Age Families:

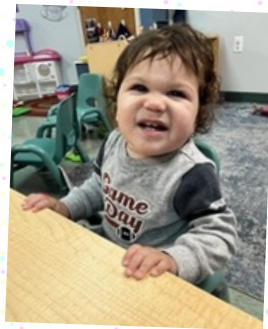
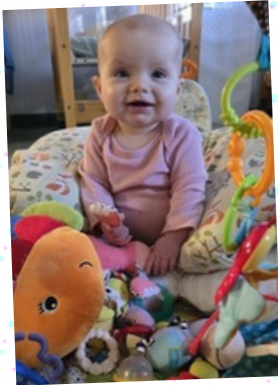
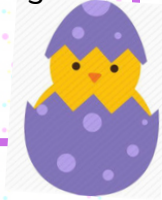
If your child is enrolled in our school-age program, they will automatically have a full-time spot in our summer program, and tuition will be adjusted accordingly. Please confirm with the office what your child's summer days will be. If changes need to be made or if your child will be part-time, please let us know which days your child will be attending for the summer by Friday April 24th.



## PARKING LOT

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.



## OUTDOOR REMINDERS

### Recess (Outdoor) Time & Extra Clothes:

Our goal is to go outside daily if the real-feel temp is 25 degrees or above. Please make sure your child has suitable outdoor clothing. Sweatshirts, coats/jackets, hats, and 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!**



CHURCH  
EVENT

Do you want to build a snowman??

Help us start making decorations for VBS!!  
Friday, April 17 from 3:30-5:30 pm  
Social Room of Christ Lutheran

## WEATHER DELAYS AND CLOSURES

### Inclement Weather: Delays/Closures ☁

If snow/severe weather 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 priority.

### School Age Families

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. If the school district closes for a snow or remote-learning day, we will NOT have all-day care available. Additionally, we are **NOT** responsible for any 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.





# WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD



## KICKOFF SATURDAY

JOIN US (AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS) AT JAMES GETTYS FROM 9-12 FOR TONS OF FUN ACTIVITIES, FACE PAINTING, BALLOON ANIMALS, SPECIAL GUESTS, COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND MORE!

## R&R SUNDAY

SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY, READ STORIES, VISIT A FARM, ZOO, OR BAKERY! MAKE COOKIES, PLAY GAMES, AND RELAX BEFORE THE BUSY FUN WEEK BEGINS!

## ALL WEEK

PARENT INVOLVMENT! COME READ, CREATE, EXPLORE, OR JUST PLAY! LOOK FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM'S SIGN-UP SHEET TO RESERVE A TIME SLOT!

## MUSIC MONDAY

ADAMS COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL'S MUSIC PROGRAM "ROOM2MUSIC" WILL BE VISITING SOME OF OUR CLASSROOMS TO ALLOW CHILDREN THE EXPLORATION OF NEW AND UNIQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS!

## TASTY TUESDAY

LOOK FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM SIGN-UP SHEET FOR INGREDIENTS NEEDED TO CREATE THEIR HEALTHY DIY SNACKS!

BRING A FAMILY-FAVORITE, COOKIE/DESSERT RECIPE TO SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES! DROP THE RECIPE INTO THE BASKET LOCATED BY THE SIDE ENTRANCE TO HELP US CREATE A KEEPSAKE BOOK OF VARIOUS FAMILY RECIPES!

## WORKING TOGETHER WEDNESDAY (ALL WEEK)

DONATE TO SPERANZA ANIMAL RESCUE! AN ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTER AND FARM-SANCTUARY! SPERANZA IS COMMITTED TO SAVING THE MOST ABUSED AND NEGLECTED ANIMALS, NO MATTER THE SIZE, BREED, OR MEDICAL CARE REQUIRED. SPERANZA IS NONPROFIT AND RELYS SOLELY ON DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS!  
[HTTPS://WWW.SPERANZARESCUE.ORG/](https://www.speranzarescue.org/)

## ARTSY THURSDAY

EVERY CHILD WILL HAVE A HAND IN CREATING THE NEW WALL MURAL BY THE SIDE ENTRANCE, THAT WILL REFLECT THIS YEAR'S WOYC PA1 BOOK: *THE GREAT COOKIE KERFUFFLE!*

## FAMILY FRIDAY

LUNCH OR DINNER. FAMILY OR FRIENDS. YOU CHOOSE THE MEAL, YOU CHOOSE THE COMPANY! GETTYSBURG HOSS'S WILL THEN DONATE A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SJELC DINE-IN SALES RIGHT BACK TO OUR VERY OWN CENTER!

