

What's up?

JCCDC Newsletter for Parents, Providers, Community Partners & Staff



Welcome Back to School! 📚 🚚 🍎 📖

We are excited to begin a new school year filled with learning, growth, friendship, and new experiences. As we begin September and October, we look forward to supporting our children as they learn, build confidence, make new friends, and grow. Thank you to our parents for partnering with JCCDC and trusting us to be part of your child's early learning journey. Welcome back, JCCDC families! Here's to a wonderful school year!

Dr. Earlene Reynolds
Executive Director
Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc. 💜



- **September 7 (Monday) – CLOSED in**
Observance of Labor Day 🛠️ ❤️ 🤝 🇺🇸
- 🇺🇸 **September 11 (Friday) – Patriot Day (9/11 Remembrance)** 🕯️
- 👴 👵 **September 13 (Sunday) – National Grandparents Day** ❤️ 🌸
- 🌍 🎉 **September 15 (Tuesday) – Hispanic Heritage Month Begins** 🌍 🎊 🎵



- 🧡 💜 **October (All Month) – Breast Cancer Awareness Month** 🧡
- 🌿 💜 **October (All Month) – ADHD Awareness Month** 🧠 💜
- 🏳️🌈 📖 **October (All Month) – LGBTQ+ History Month** 🏳️🌈 ✨
- 💻 🔒 **October (All Month) – Cybersecurity Awareness Month** 🛡️ 🔑
- 📖 📚 **October (All Month) – National Book Month** 📖 ✨
- 🍎 📖 **October 5 (Monday) – World Teachers' Day** 👩🏫 👨🏫
- 🧠 💜 **October 10 (Saturday) – World Mental Health Day** 🌍 💜
- li>• 🎃 👻 **October 31 (Saturday) – Halloween** 🕷️ 🎃 🧡

JCCDC PARENT ORIENTATION



Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended our Parent Orientation. We are pleased to report a successful event and appreciate your participation and commitment to your child's education.

During the orientation, families learned about our Head Start program services, school readiness goals, health and safety procedures, family engagement opportunities, and ways to support learning at home. Your questions, insights, and enthusiasm helped make the event informative and engaging.

Parent involvement is a key component of Head Start, and we are excited to partner with you throughout the program year. Together, we can create a strong foundation for your child's growth, learning, and success.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the agency at 205-933-1095.

Labor Day Story

In the United States, one special holiday marks the end of summer. This day is called Labor Day, and it honors all American workers. It started long ago when workers marched to ask for better and safer jobs.



Apple Donut Snacks

A Healthy Snack Kids Can Make!

Ingredients

- 1 apple (any variety)
- Peanut butter, sunflower butter, or cream cheese
- Raisins, granola, mini chocolate chips, shredded coconut, or diced strawberries

Directions

- 1 An adult slices the apple into round rings and removes the core.
- 2 Spread a thin layer of peanut butter, sunflower butter, or cream cheese on each apple ring.
- 3 Let your child decorate with favorite toppings.
- 4 Enjoy!

Learning Together

Count toppings, create fun designs, and strengthen fine motor skills while decorating.

Family Challenge

Take a picture of your child's apple donut creation and share it with your teacher!

Recipe Card to Save

APPLE DONUT SNACKS

Ingredients: 1 Apple, spread, favorite toppings

Steps: Slice - Core - Spread - Decorate - Enjoy!



EDUCATION CORNER

Supporting School Readiness.
Building Bright Futures.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026



Every child.
Every family.
Every day.
We are here
to help you thrive!



BUILDING STRONG ROUTINES FOR LEARNING

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time for children, families, and teachers! Establishing consistent routines helps children feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

**Establish a daily routine:**

Consistent wake-up, meal, bedtime, and school routines help children know what to expect.

**Read every day:**

Spend at least 10–15 minutes reading, talking about pictures, and asking your child questions about the story.

**Encourage independence:**

Allow children to help with simple tasks such as cleaning up toys, choosing clothes, or putting away belongings.

**Talk and listen:**

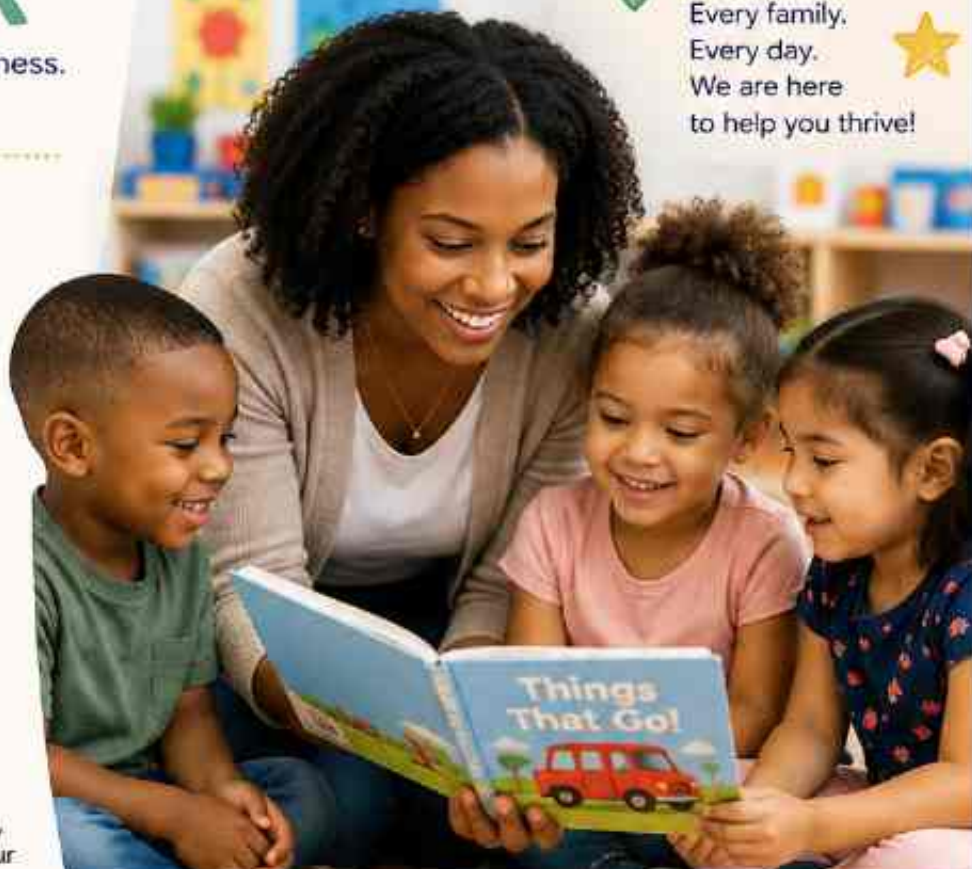
Everyday conversations help build vocabulary, communication, and social-emotional skills.

**Practice school routines at home:**

Encourage children to follow directions, transition between activities, and care for their personal belongings.

**Celebrate effort:**

Praise children for trying, problem-solving, and learning new skills.



LEARNING THROUGH EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES



Learning does not only happen in the classroom! Cooking together can introduce children to counting and measurement.



Grocery shopping can build language and math skills.



Taking a walk can encourage children to observe nature, identify colors and shapes, and ask questions.

Remember: Every conversation, book, question, and experience is an opportunity to learn!



FAMILY & TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

Families are a child's first and most important teachers. When families and educators work together, children receive consistent support that strengthens their development and school readiness.

*This school year,
let's work together to help
every child learn, grow,
and thrive!*





A Legacy of Imagination & Love

Dolly Parton was more than a beloved country music legend—she was a champion for children, literacy, and education. Born and raised in Tennessee, Dolly grew up in a large family and understood the importance of books and learning from an early age.

In 1995, she founded **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, a program that provides free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five. What began as a small local effort grew into a worldwide literacy program, gifting **hundreds of millions of books** to children and families.

Dolly passed away on **August 25, 2026, at the age of 80**, but her incredible legacy will live on through the children who continue to discover the joy of reading.

Her life reminds us that one person with a big heart and a big imagination can make a lasting difference.

Thank you, Dolly, for helping children dream, learn, and imagine a brighter future.

In Loving Memory of Dolly Parton • 1946–2026



Preparing for Cold & Flu Season

As we head into the upcoming cold and flu season, it's important for families to take simple steps to help keep children, staff, and our community healthy. Frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, getting plenty of rest, and staying home when sick can help reduce the spread of illness.

 **Don't forget about vaccinations!** The CDC recommends that everyone **6 months and older** receive a flu vaccine each flu season, unless they have a medical reason not to. Vaccination is an important way to reduce the risk of influenza and its potentially serious complications.

Let's work together to make this a **healthy and happy season!**

Wash your hands. Cover your cough. Stay home when sick. Get vaccinated. Stay healthy!  





Fire Prevention Month: Why It Matters

Every October, communities across the country observe Fire Prevention Month — a tradition that traces back to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, one of the most devastating fires in U.S. history. What started as a way to commemorate that tragedy has grown into a nationwide effort to educate families, schools, and workplaces on fire safety and prevention.

Why Fire Safety Still Matters

Fires can happen anywhere — at home, at work, in classrooms, or in shared community spaces — and they often happen fast. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires can turn deadly in as little as two minutes. That's why prevention and preparedness aren't just good ideas; they're essential.

Fire Prevention Month is a reminder that small, simple habits can make a life-saving difference:

- **Test smoke alarms monthly** and replace batteries at least once a year.
- **Create and practice a fire escape plan** with two ways out of every room.
- **Keep flammable items away from heat sources**, including space heaters, stoves, and candles.
- **Know how to use a fire extinguisher** and keep one accessible in key areas.
- **Teach children what to do** if they hear a smoke alarm, including how to "stop, drop, and roll."

Fire Safety in the Workplace

Fire prevention isn't just a household responsibility — it's a workplace one too. Organizations can support fire safety by:

- Keeping exits, hallways, and stairwells clear of clutter.
- Scheduling regular fire drills so staff know evacuation routes.
- Inspecting fire extinguishers and alarm systems on a routine basis.
- Reviewing emergency procedures with new employees during onboarding.

A Month of Awareness, A Lifetime of Habits

The goal of Fire Prevention Month isn't just a single awareness campaign — it's about building habits that last well beyond October. A few minutes spent checking a smoke alarm or reviewing an escape plan can make all the difference when it matters most.

This October, take a moment to check your smoke alarms, talk with your family or team about your evacuation plan, and make fire safety a part of everyday life — not just something we think about once a year.

