

EELC Public Statement – January 29, 2025

On January 9, 2025, a former employee of Elizabeth's Early Learning Center (EELC) was arrested on charges of assault and battery involving five two-year-olds at EELC in Fall 2024.

We are heartbroken that this happened to our children and are committed to taking steps to ensure it never happens again. We are learning throughout the process, and hope that our parents, family members, and community will grow with us throughout this process.

While we cannot change the events that have occurred, everyone associated with EELC is focused on moving forward and maintaining the best environment possible for our children, parents, and staff.

The steps we are taking to GROW Forward are as follows:

1. EELC's new Executive Director, Holland Coleman, is stepping back from day-to-day operations at EELC for 30 days, and will focus on:
 - Developing a comprehensive training plan for staff.
 - Visiting other NAEYC accredited schools in Virginia to create a professional network and see how other organizations similar to EELC operate.
 - Developing a staffing model for administrative support, including cross training and compliance.
2. In Coleman's absence, longtime EELC staff members Angela McFadden and Fely Isidro will address the day-to-day operations for the staff and be available for parents as needed.
3. Security cameras will be installed in each classroom and in the Great Hall common area.
4. Over the next 30 days, all EELC staff will be trained in the following:
 - CPS Mandated Reporter Training and Q&A, conducted by CPS.
 - MANDT training, consisting of prevention, de-escalating and intervening in potentially aggressive behaviors, conducted by MANDT instructor.
5. A committee of EELC board of directors' members will interview staff individually regarding workplace culture.
6. EELC will also establish a Positively Engaged Parents (PEP) Squad to engage parents more fully.

Elizabeth's Early Learning Center has been successfully serving Central Virginia's youth for 28 years. We are deeply committed to our mission of providing every child with affectionate and personalized care in a safe environment. We are here for the young children and families in our community.