STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
The philosophy of our Early Childhood Program is that the young child can develop a strong self-image through the use of positive reinforcement in a curriculum that enhances cognitive, physical, social, listening and language skills as well as moral growth.

We value children...
for their individuality, their extraordinary wealth of inborn abilities and potential, their strength and creativity. Children are active participants in the development of their identities, autonomy and creative intelligence.

We value staff...
for their vision, their delight in children, their skill, dedication, knowledge and commitment to families.

We value families...
for their bonds and traditions, their commitment to career, home and community, and their visions for their children’s education.

We value Judaism...
for the spirit of its teachings, values, traditions, culture and heritage. We encourage families to embrace Judaism at their own comfort level.

Parent and teacher partnerships are fundamental to the foundation of our school community. This reciprocal relationship is built on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared responsibility. Our collaboration enables an effective communication network that enriches the growth, care and development of each child.

OUR DIRECTOR: ANN PARDES
Ann Pardes brings more than 30 years of Early Childhood experience, both in New York and Florida. Prior to joining WJC in 2018, Ann served as the Director of the JCC of Harrison ECC. She holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching and Elementary Education from Manhattanville College. Under Ann’s leadership, Westchester Jewish Center enhances its commitment to its well-established Early Childhood Center.

ann@wjcenter.org
914-698-2767
LITTLE ONES & FRIENDS Fridays: 9:15-10:30am
Little Ones & Friends introduces toddlers ages 1-2 and a parent or caregiver to a fun, interactive class with play, socialization, music and movement. Children are introduced to the classroom environment while they and their parent/caregiver make friends, explore manipulatives like puzzles and art materials, and dance and sing during circle time. Every class ends with a snack of challah and fruit as they welcome in Shabbat with a story and songs.

TWOS Choice of 2, 3, 4 or 5 days: 9-11:30am
Twos are supported and encouraged to develop their language skills to express thoughts, feelings and needs with adults and their peers. They are exposed to a rich environment of expressive art materials and tools, enjoyable sensory experiences such as sand, water and doughs, manipulatives such as puzzles and building materials, dramatic play materials and the natural outdoor environment. Children learn to explore their surroundings in a curious and comfortable manner, during which they also develop their fine and large motor skills and gain confidence in their ability to make choices and learn at their own pace. The nurturing environment fosters their development of self-help skills, including toilet training, hand-washing and dressing independently.

THREES Monday-Friday: 9am-12pm
Our Threes curriculum stems from the children’s interest – whether it’s a study of rainbows arising from the light refraction in the classroom, or an exploration of leaves stemming from the collection of fall debris in our playground. Through this emergent curriculum, children feel valued and honored as teachers find ways to bring the students’ passions to the forefront of their learning experiences.

FOURS Monday-Friday: 9am-12pm
In our four-year-old classes, children learn and explore in all the different curricular areas through activity centers in the classrooms and opportunities in our outdoor learning environments.

A strong emphasis in our Fours program is placed on socio-emotional development, with goals for children such as learning to play cooperatively with peers in self-directed play and group activities, understanding and following classroom routines and behavioral expectations.

As most Fours students plan to move on to a Kindergarten program the next year, we prepare them to reach academic benchmarks such as improving understanding of numbers and counting, beginning to make hypotheses regarding observations, and increasing facility with writing and literacy.

ALL CLASSES
Children follow a daily routine which typically includes free exploration and play in the classroom activity centers, morning meeting, snack time and outdoor play. The children learn a sense of independence while strengthening their motor skills. Teachers take advantage of opportunities to incorporate numeric concepts and to support emergent literacy. The children feel a sense of security in the daily routine, which in turn helps them develop trusting relationships with their teachers, and increases their ability to self-regulate and assert independence.

EXTENDED DAY
Threes: 12:00-1:30pm; Fours: 12:00-2:30pm
Extended Day programming is offered to students in the Threes and Fours. Children eat lunch and engage with their peers in an instructor-led enrichment activity:
- Dance and Drum (Mondays)
- Holistic Kids or Tae Kwon Do (Tuesdays)
- Artstree or GB Soccer (Wednesdays)
- Mad Science (Thursdays)
- Yoga (Fridays)

CURRICULUM EXPERIENCES FOR ALL AGES:
- Music and Movement
- Story Time/Library
- Gardening and Nature
- Nutrition and Cooking
- Mindfulness and Yoga

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Throughout the school year, our vibrant school community hosts parent-only events such as the annual welcome cocktail party, as well as family events including community Shabbat dinners, Hanukkah Party, Purim Carnival and Passover celebration.

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*Extended Day tuition is non-refundable.
*There is an additional security fee for all families
*There is an additional Parents’ Association fee for all families

ON FRIDAYS, WE OFFER YOGA FOR THREES AND FOURS:
FRIDAY YOGA: MEMBER: $610  NON-MEMBER: $770

MEMBER: $500 NON-MEMBER: $750