



Early Childhood Center
914-698-2767

August 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

As we embark on a new school year, we want to express our gratitude to you for choosing WJC ECC. I understand that many of us don't know each other very well (yet!). I know this isn't easy, but I am going to ask that you trust us with your children. I don't want you to trust us only because of our education, experience or reputation. I'm asking you to trust us because of what we believe in and have learned over the years.

Planning this school year was an immense challenge due to circumstances surrounding Covid-19. But we continue to strive to maintain our enriching, nurturing, developmentally appropriate experience for 2020-21 for your children in a safe and healthy environment.

A high-quality Early Childhood Center recognizes children as constructivist learners, views children as capable and competent human beings, values directors as visionary, respects teachers as professionals, and embraces parents as partners in their children's education and well-being.

Children...are individuals with an extraordinary wealth of inborn abilities and potential. They are active participants in the development of their identities, autonomy and creative intelligence.

Teachers...are the heart and soul of the school. They should be recognized for their vision, their delight in children, their skill, dedication, knowledge and commitment to families.

Parents...are respected for their bonds and traditions, their commitment to career, home and community, and their expectations for their children's education.

Directors...in a high-quality Early Childhood Center must be a well-balanced combination of school readiness skills and social emotional learning. I don't subscribe to a single curriculum approach. But rather, I believe in adopting pieces of the best early childhood curricula in order to create optimal learning opportunities for all children. Approaches to learning may vary by individual learning styles in order to meet each child's needs.

- **Guided and Intentional Play:** Children will engage in play as a means of learning, approach tasks and activities with creativity, imagination and/or a willingness to try new things, children will exhibit curiosity and demonstrate persistence.
- **Physical Well-Being and Motor Development:** Children will have developed fine motor skills (cutting, dressing self), gross motor skills (running, jumping), and will be well-rested and well-nourished.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** Children will be able to have positive interactions with others and be able to self-regulate their behavior as well as understand and express their feelings. They will also be able to solve conflicts, empathize with others and have the ability to take turns and share.
- **Communication, Language & Literacy Development:** Children will be able to observe, ask questions, and solve problems based on what they see and hear. They will have an enthusiastic and curious approach to new activities. Children will also be able to communicate with others and understand that there is a connection between letters and sounds.
- **Cognition & Knowledge of the World:** Children will have developed concepts and skills in mathematics, science, social studies, the arts & technology.

My responsibility to you goes far beyond the day to day survival of our ECC. As an effective Director, my goal is to be a master communicator, highly personable, proactive, multi-tasker who will invest my time in establishing relationships and building community. I recognize the crucial role staff play in the reputation and success of our program and will act as their mentor and coach. As your ECC Director, I will guide with dignity, wisdom, passion, devotion and have the energy and determination to nourish our wonderful school.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you at our Zoom Parent Orientation. During this time together, you will have an opportunity to learn about the new things planned for our ECC and to learn a bit more about our curriculum. We will provide updates on the policies and procedures associated with Covid-19. **For the 2s Orientation is Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30pm, the 3s Orientation is on Wednesday September 9th at 7:30pm, and the 4s is on Thursday, September 10th at 7:30pm. (insert dates and times for meetings here) FYI Class lists will be sent to you in an email the week before school begins on 9/14. Class lists will be sent out the week of September 7th.**

If you ever have any questions or something to share with me, my office door is always open to you. You can also call or email me at school. In addition, I can be reached during non-school hours (but not on Shabbat, please) on my cell phone at 561-400-7361.

B'Shalom,

Ann Pardes