

## WELCOME

The Westchester Jewish Center Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a warm and nurturing environment encouraging children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Our progressive school takes inspiration from a range of child-centered approaches to early childhood education with an emphasis on play-based, experiential learning, and a low teacher-to-student ratio.

We view children as capable and competent and respect their individual needs and interests. Our dedicated teachers work to stimulate and follow the children's natural sense of wonder and curiosity as they explore new ideas within the classroom, on the playground, and throughout our community. Classes are structured to provide ample and varied opportunities for exploration and discovery both indoors and outdoors.

Children receive a solid Jewish foundation centered around the celebration of holidays and values such as tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world). Jewish holidays provide opportunities for children to learn outside of their daily classroom routine. We celebrate Shabbat with our clergy every week with a school wide Community Shabbat sing-along.

**Call us at 914-698-2767 to schedule a tour.**  
**To learn more or register, please visit**  
[wjcenter.org/ecc](http://wjcenter.org/ecc)



### **ANN PARDES, WJC ECC DIRECTOR**

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.

**Contact:** [ann@wjcenter.org](mailto:ann@wjcenter.org)



### **CAROL MEYERS, WJC ECC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Carol has been working in the field of education since 1988. She has a BA in Psychology from Clark University and a MA in Education from Hunter College. Previously, Carol was the Assistant Nursery School Director at Temple Israel Center.

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**For inquiries: 914-698-2767**  
[www.wjcenter.org/ecc](http://www.wjcenter.org/ecc)

**WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER**  
Palmer & Rockland Avenues  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
[wjcenter.org](http://wjcenter.org)



## **WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

**Pre-School Program for Ages 2-5**

*Starting your child's education off on the right track*





## CURRICULUM

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 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.

### EXPERIENCES FOR ALL AGES

- Music and Movement
- Story Time/Library
- Gardening and Nature
- Nutrition and Cooking
- Mindfulness and Yoga

### LITTLE ONES & FRIENDS (Toddlers Ages 1-2)

**Fridays: 9:15-10:30am**

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.

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### TWOS

**Choice of 2, 3, 4 or 5 days: 9:00-11:30am**

Twos are exposed to a rich environment of expressive art materials and tools, enjoyable sensory experiences such as sand, water and doughs, 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.

### THREE TO BE

**Monday-Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm**

This class is designed especially for older twos and younger Threes. A child turning three between October 1 and March 31 is eligible for this class.

### THREES

**Monday-Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm**

This 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: 9:00am-12:00pm**

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 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. We also prepare them to improve understanding of numbers and counting, hypotheses regarding observations, and writing and literacy.

## 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.

## PARENT & TEACHER PARTNERSHIPS

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.

## PROJECT SEED

We are proud to be a Project SEED (Supporting Early Emotional Development) school. A collaboration between Westchester Jewish Community Services and the Jewish Education Project, Project SEED is designed to help early childhood educators support young children's emotional development.

