

A Day at the JCCGW Preschool

If you were to peek into our classrooms, you might see children involved in a community meeting, dressing up, baking challah, immersed in constructing with Legos or blocks, up to their elbows in sand or play dough, looking at books, having a Passover seder, creating a train village, going to work in the garden, playing instruments, making signs, or drawing self-portraits.

You would also see engaged teachers watching and listening to children, documenting their play with photos and notes, offering resources to support and extend their play, and having fun alongside them.

The JCCGW classroom is a highly engaging place where we welcome everyone and where we are committed to your child.

Sample of Daily Schedule:

- Community Meeting (planning with the children, topic study discussions, open-ended sharing, stories, songs, games, etc)
- Choice Time (Small group work, Art Studio, Construction, Dramatic Play, Topic Study Explorations, Books, Literacy/Message Center, Cooking, Manipulatives)
- Clean Up
- Snack (may be a separate activity, or incorporated into Choice Time)
- Outdoor Classroom—nature, outdoor explorations, games, gross motor play
- Reflection Meeting (discuss day's work and future plans)
- Lunch
- Structured activities until 5:45

Inspired Curriculum

Our program is based on an Emergent Curriculum and is Reggio Emilia inspired. This approach respects children's ideas and abilities and creates a dynamic and creative classroom experience. Our curriculum also aligns with the Maryland State standards which will be important when your child goes into first grade.

Staff & Specialists

Our staff makes a difference and it is our priority to employ experienced and talented staff members that meet our high standards. We provide ongoing professional development to support our staff as lifelong learners. The ECE program is a professional educational setting and sets clear standards and expectations for all teachers and staff members. Our talented and dedicated staff is committed to ensuring each child's happiness, safety, and growth.

Specialists

We offer a variety of specialized activities that your child participates in with his/her class. In addition, school-wide special programs are scheduled throughout the year. We also work with the different departments of the JCCGW to make use of the wonderful facilities available to us. We currently offer music and movement/sports as a regular special for all our classes.

Our Families

We take the idea of a partnership with our preschool families very seriously. It is only through the strong partnership of the home and the school that a child can have the richest preschool experience. Parents are invited to school-wide and classroom celebrations so that the connection between home and school is strengthened.

Beyond the Classroom

The JCC of Greater Washington

Our children are fortunate to have access to the wonderful JCCGW facility, which includes indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a gymnasium, art and dance studios, walking paths, and the Recreation Station. The multigenerational and multicultural community at the JCCGW enhances our preschoolers' learning experiences.

The Great Outdoors

With two playgrounds, a growing garden, and an abundance of grassy areas, our children benefit from experiences that enlighten and engage outside the classroom. Each day includes learning opportunities outside our four walls, so a warm pair of snow boots and raingear are a must!

Enrichment Classes

Our enrichment classes in art, science, and cooking are offered for children enrolled in 3-and 4-year-old programs. Many students also take advantage of JCCGW after-school activities such as swimming, sports & recreation, dance, and art programs.

Jewish Holidays

We are pleased to offer a program which is rich in Jewish culture, tradition, and values. At the JCCGW Preschool we celebrate all of the Jewish holidays as well as Thanksgiving, Presidents' Day, and Martin Luther King Day. We do not celebrate Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, or Easter. The Jewish holidays with all their traditions are an integral and on-going part of the educational program for your child.



“ I could send my kid to the local nursery school that's four blocks away; instead I commute 37.2 miles to take her to the JCC. It's that good... ”

Flexible Program Options

HoliDaycare

For students in both 10-month and 12-month programs, we offer HoliDaycare on most Jewish holidays when the preschool is closed, but the JCCGW building is open. HoliDaycare is only available to children currently enrolled in the JCCGW preschool. Space is limited.

Summer Program

Children in the 10-month program are invited to join our fun summer program. Instructional swim is included for the children enrolled in the 3-and 4-year-old programs. Free swim is part of the program every day for all children.

ECE Kid Coverage

ECE Kid Coverage is offered during Winter/Spring Breaks when the 10-month program is closed, but the 12-month program is still in session. Full-day 10-month students will be assigned to their current full-day classrooms. If space permits, this program will also be available to children in half-day programs.

Extended Day Options

For students in our 10-month program, we offer early morning and afternoon extended day options. Early drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m., and later afternoon pick-up is available at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

“ The Preschool's well-rounded program allowed my son to learn and experience art, music, sports, swimming, Shabbat, and much more in a way that was engaging and fun... ”

| Program | Age | FULL YEAR 12 months | SCHOOL YEAR | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 10 months | Plus Extended Care |
| Transition Two's | For children who turn age 2 between Sept.-Dec.** | 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday-Friday | 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. M-F or M, W & F | AM: 7:30-9:15am PM: 12:30-4 or 6 p.m. |
| Two's | For children who turn age 2 by Sept. 1 of the academic year | | 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. M-F or M, W & F | AM: 7:30-9:15 a.m. PM: 12:30-4 or 6 p.m. |
| Three's | For children who turn age 3 before Sept. 1 of the academic year | | 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. M-F | AM: 7:30-9:15 a.m. PM: 12:30-4 or 6 p.m. |
| Four's | For children who turn age 4 before Sept. 1 of the academic year | | 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. M-F | AM: 7:30-9:15 a.m. PM: 2:30-4 or 6 p.m. |
| Transitional Kindergarten (T/K) | For children who completed a 4s program (young 5s) and would benefit from an extra year to prepare for Kindergarten. | | 9:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. M-F | AM: 7:30-9:15 a.m. PM: 2:45-4:00 or 6 p.m. |

“ The fundamental social improvements that I have seen from my son over his two years at the JCC are immeasurable! ”

Bender-Dosik Parenting Center

For expecting parents and for families with children up to age 24 months, the Bender-Dosik Parenting Center is a wonderful resource for activities, classes, lectures and education.

Classes such as L'AMAZing Baby, Baby & Me, Shabbat Shalom, Water Babies, Water Tots, and Gymnastics are offered throughout the year. We also host parenting classes and lectures at sites throughout Montgomery County. Please call 301-348-3837 or visit jccgw.org for details.

When I Play - I Learn

When I paint I learn:

- to develop my imagination and creativity (intelligence)
- to develop eye-hand coordination (writing skill)
- to distinguish and purposely create shapes (math and writing skills)
- to express my feelings and ideas (language)
- that my ideas have value (self-esteem)
- relationships of space and size (math and science)
- concepts of symmetry, balance, and design (intelligence)

When I look at objects in nature I learn:

- new vocabulary (language, intelligence)
- concepts of texture, color, weight, and size (intelligence)
- to group objects into categories (math)
- to observe likenesses and differences (math)
- to appreciate nature and develop a sense of wonder (intelligence)

When I look at books and listen to stories I learn:

- to express my own thoughts, feelings, and ideas
- to exercise my imagination
- that pictures tell something just like words
- to make up my own stories
- to follow the development of thoughts and ideas in the plot of a story

When I play on climbing equipment I learn:

- physical strength, coordination, and balance
- to use my imagination
- to cooperate with others when involved in group play
- to solve problems
- self-confidence as I develop new skills

When I participate in group time I learn:

- to listen, sit still, and understand spoken words
- that my ideas have value to the other children and the teacher (self-concept)
- to wait my turn when others are talking
- new vocabulary words

When I sing songs I learn:

- principles of music and rhythm
- vocabulary
- memory skills and sequencing (reading, math)
- to be conscious of others
- various concepts emphasized in songs
- phonics or auditory discrimination (reading)
- awareness and identification with my culture and other cultures

When I play I learn

that I am me

a small child who is valued, cherished, and loved

Source: Unknown

Our Early Childhood Educators Make The Difference

At the JCCGW Preschool we believe:

1. High-quality early childhood education promotes intellectual, language, physical, social, and emotional development and is essential for later academic and social success.
2. Every classroom must reflect our core belief that young children are capable and competent individuals.
3. It is the role of the classroom teacher to create an engaging environment that stimulates thinking, exploration, collaboration, and growth.
4. Qualified and well trained staff is the foundation of a high quality preschool experience.

At the JCCGW Preschool we deliver the highest quality early childhood program that you are seeking for your child. Every hour of the program, from 7:30 AM until 6:00 PM, is planned and implemented by the staff we hire and train, ensuring that your child has meaningful learning experiences throughout the day. We do not outsource our care, and this is a difference you will see and feel immediately.



JCC of Greater Washington Early Childhood Education

Where Children's curiosity Lead to Inspired Learning

“Our son's teachers created a warm, nurturing, and creative environment where he has flourished. Every day he has a new story about the “best” day. Though he never left the JCC, he has traveled to Japan, journeyed to the sun, built an entire city, become a squirrel so he can better study acorns, and won an Olympic gold medal. Each day, I look forward to hearing about his amazing journey!”

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