JCC INDIANAPOLIS Community is our middle name.

Early Childhood Education

Parent Handbook

2012-2013

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where it's GREAT to be a kid

Welcome

Our Philosophy and Goals

The philosophy of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at the JCC is that young children learn best by doing. Learning isn't just repeating what someone else says; it requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn firsthand about the world we live in. Our curriculum engages students in active and creative exploration so that they feel confident in trying their own ideas and thinking their own thoughts. In this way we teach them how to learn, a skill they will use all their lives far beyond preschool.

Our curriculum identifies goals in all areas of development:

- Social: To help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends and feel they are a part of the group.
- Emotional: To cultivate in our children self-confidence, independence, self-control and a positive attitude toward life.
- Physical: To help children increase their muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.
- Cognitive: To encourage children to become independent learners by testing their own ideas and experiencing success and by helping them develop learning skills, such as problem-solving, asking questions and using descriptive words to express their ideas, observations and feelings.

The JCC embraces a learning-through-play teaching method to engage children in activities that promote creativity, accelerate learning and stimulate social interaction, all at each child's individual pace. Not only does our active teaching method apply to our sequential curriculum, we also incorporate it in all of the sports and play activities that children participate in throughout the entire JCC facility: in our gymnasiums, swimming pools, outdoor playgrounds and indoor play areas. Everything we do at the JCC is focused on developing skills for life so that each child in our program will be well-prepared academically and socially for the years ahead.

We invite parents to be actively involved in their child's education and care at the JCC. Parents may volunteer in the classroom and join us on field trips. We believe that the more active a role parents play in their child's education and care, the more the child is sure to benefit.

Our Staff

We carefully screen and select our nurturing ECE teachers and caregivers. Take a walk through our corridors, and you will see our staff hugging children, gently working with them on projects and participating in fun activities. Our teachers are well-trained (and retrained each year) in the areas of child development and health and safety standards. We recognize how critical a partnership between educators and parents is during these formative years. Our teachers engage parents in their children's learning by communicating regularly about each child's educational, emotional and behavioral development. Our teachers are always available to parents with the child's best interests in mind.

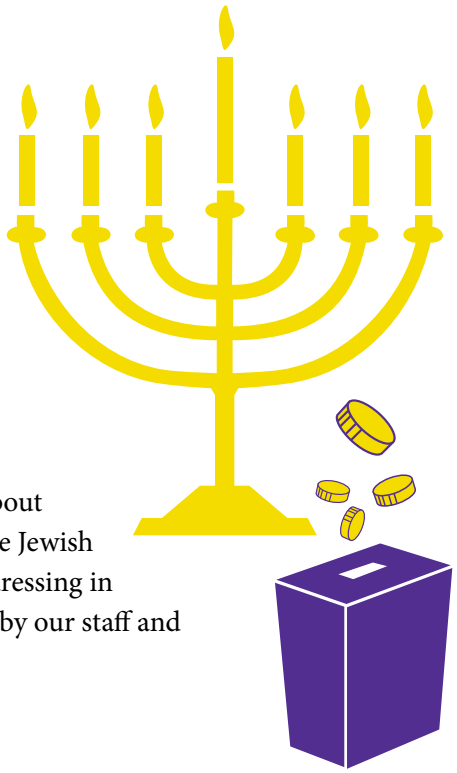
Our Facility: Pools, Gymnasiums and More!

Our entire facility is the children's playground at the JCC. We play sports and games in our gymnasiums, and all children play outdoors daily in our enclosed playgrounds except when raining or during extreme temperatures. Not only do children benefit from the fresh air, but running, jumping, climbing and playing help develop their motor skills. We have a garden where the children grow their own vegetables and flowers. Our auditorium becomes a huge play area and is also our theater when we're singing and dancing on the stage. Music education and arts activities with specialists and artists-in-residence ensure that children in the ECE are provided with a well-rounded educational experience. With such terrific, fully-equipped facilities, the JCC's ECE program offers so many opportunities to stimulate children's physical growth and cultivate their socialization skills.

Our pools allow us to provide a unique aspect of our curriculum. All children at the JCC learn to swim under the instruction of a certified lifeguard and/or certified water safety instructor in our indoor and outdoor pools. They learn to love water because of the lessons and play time we provide in our "magic pool"—the Shirley & Herbert Backer Therapy Pool. The therapy pool's water and room are maintained at a constant 89 degrees Fahrenheit so children are comfortably warm. The pool is equipped with a hydraulic floor that "magically" adjusts from 0 to 6 feet, making it great fun to splash in the water as it slowly becomes deeper. The excitement of the magical floor helps remove fear of water and opens a child's mind to swimming.

Your child will need a swimsuit, shoes to wear to the pool, a towel and appropriate outdoor clothing for every season. Also, tennis shoes and socks are much safer than open-toed shoes and sandals on the playground and at school. Please label all of your child's items with his/her name. If your child has a medical exception for participation in any of the activities we offer, please provide a doctor's note of explanation.

Jewish Learning and Culture



While we recognize that many children in our program are not Jewish, the values we teach apply to all equally. In addition to kindness, respect and responsibility, we focus on "tzedakah," the Hebrew word for doing good deeds and sharing with those less fortunate. Our children participate all year long in activities to perform acts of kindness not only for their classmates and teachers but for others in the community through partnerships with other not-for-profit agencies (Gleaners Food Bank, United Way of Central Indiana and more).

The JCC inspires children to explore traditions by participating in Jewish holiday celebrations. We celebrate Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) every Friday and learn about Jewish holidays by discussing stories and observing the traditions of each one. The Jewish holidays provide rich opportunities for learning and different sorts of activities (dressing in costumes, parades, food preparation, candle-lighting and more) that are planned by our staff and Jewish Cultural Specialist. See pages 10–12 for our Jewish holiday guide.

Enrichment Opportunities

Our ECE families are welcome to participate in any number of classes and sports activities that the JCC offers after preschool and kindergarten hours. For a nominal fee, your child may participate in enrichment activities, including dance classes, soccer and basketball leagues, swimming, tennis lessons and karate. Our staff escorts children to their after-school activities and from these programs until 5:30 pm. After 5:30 pm, children must be picked up by a parent or guardian. Class offerings can be found on the JCC website (www.JCCindy.org), in the quarterly *Update*, and on the display walls in the building.

Please complete a class enrichment form, available from the ECE office or from the JCC website (www.JCCindy.org), when you register your child for a JCC enrichment activity.

Policies & Procedures

The Jewish Community Center is legally responsible for the Early Childhood Education department.

Arrival and Departure

ECE hours are from 7 am to 6 pm. Pre-school begins at 9 am. ECE staff is not in place to accept children prior to 7 am or to care for them after 6 pm. Parents and guardians must sign their child in and out every day per Indiana State Child Care Regulations. A sign-in book is located in each classroom.

		Drop-off	Pick-up
Preschool	With childcare	7-9 am	6 pm
	Preschool only	9 am	12:30 pm*

*Children picked up later than the conclusion of their school day may be charged for the full day unless special arrangements have been made in advance.

Please park in a designated parking space when picking up and dropping off your child. Due to traffic and fire regulations, no parking is allowed along the curb. Parents and guardians are responsible for escorting their child to and from the classroom.

Most children require a few days or weeks at the beginning of the school year to adjust to their new environment. Please help our teachers work through this adjustment period with the children by not lingering in the classroom.

Children will be released only to those individuals listed on your emergency card. Our staff is trained to verify the identification of anyone they do not recognize. If you need to add or remove names or make any other changes to your emergency card, please call the ECE office.

Late Pick-up Fees

Please be prompt when picking up your child from school as it may be upsetting to your child to wait for you. A late fee of $1 per child is assessed for every minute of tardiness after 6 pm. Three late pick-ups may result in a two-day suspension from the ECE program.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Responsibilities

In the event there is a suspicion of child abuse or neglect of any enrolled children, staff members are required to report this to the Director. The Director or staff member will, in turn, report the findings to Child Protective Services.

If an intoxicated or impaired person insists on removing children from the center, the center shall immediately report the incident to the local police agency.

Nap Time

The Indiana Family & Social Services Administration mandates that children under the age of 5 have a rest period (nap time) every day. Infants and children through the age of 3 rest between 1 and 3 pm, while our preschoolers rest from 2 to 3:30 pm. During this quiet period, the children nap on individual cots in a darkened room with soft music.

We encourage each child to have a fitted crib sheet which covers the cot nicely, a small blanket, a small pillow and a stuffed animal. Each item should be labeled with your child's name and taken home every Friday for laundering.

Field Trips

As many wonderful experiences as the JCC is able to offer children within our facility, field trips provide even more opportunities to expand your child's learning. Our community is rich in resources to allow children hands-on experiences, and we make the most of what is available.

Students in Aleph B (ages 3–5) will take several trips (on a yellow school bus, of course!) during the school year. We invite parents to join us as chaperones on our field trips. To cover the additional costs of these outings, each class will request an activity fee at the beginning of the school year. Your child's teacher will let you know the amount based on the trips planned for the year.

Field trip privileges are earned. Naturally, we anticipate that children will demonstrate appropriate behavior on field trips. However, it may be necessary to contact and work with parents if some children are not yet able to pay attention or take direction to a point where it becomes a safety issue outside of the ECE department.

Clothing

Children are busy every day with arts and crafts, outdoor play and just being kids. Please dress your child daily in washable play clothes appropriate for the day's weather, including hats, coats, mittens and boots when necessary. Children should wear socks and tennis shoes daily. Sandals and open-toed shoes are not safe on the playground.

Your child will need a complete change of labeled clothing in a plastic bag. These items will be kept in your child's cubby. We recommend changing your child's spare clothing as the seasons change and as your child grows. Children ages 3–5 will participate in weekly swim lessons, and children ages 1–2 will also swim weekly with their teachers. They will need a labeled swimsuit (swim diapers for ages 1–2) and a labeled towel. We recommend that water shoes be worn to the pool.

Toys from Home

If your child would like to share a special item at school, please encourage him or her to bring items such as books, CDs or things relating to science or nature (a leaf, rock, bird's nest, etc.). Videotapes/DVDs may be brought to school on a limited basis when approved by your child's teacher. All videos must have a "G" rating and be no more than 30 minutes in length. We strongly discourage children from bringing toys and fragile items that cannot be easily shared at school. Some classes may have a special time allotted for "Show and Share." Please note that this is up to individual classrooms and that those teachers will notify you. TOY GUNS, SWORDS or WEAPONS are not allowed at the JCC!

Personal Items

Please be sure that all clothing and personal items are clearly labeled with your child's name.

Data Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Confidentiality of information about child and family will be maintained. Enrollment forms and all other information concerning the child and family will be accessible to the parent/guardian, center director, staff and licensing agent. Information concerning the child will not be made available to anyone, by any means, without written consent of the parent/guardian.

It is the policy of this program not to disclose the names of the children who may have caused injury to another child or children while attending the center. This ensures each family's data privacy.

Behavior

When dealing with conflict, we always try to keep the child's developmental characteristics in mind. Preschoolers are still primarily focused on their own needs and are not fully aware of the needs of others. They are also struggling for independence and control. We acknowledge and talk about what each child is feeling and engage the children as active participants in the problem-solving process. The limits we set and expectations we have for our children respect the ages and abilities of the children.

However, there are occasions when our best efforts are not successful in resolving an issue. When this occurs, we will work in partnership with parents to find a solution. If necessary, a progressive discipline routine will be instituted. Usually parents will understand a situation and offer alternatives which may help in the successful resolution of the issue. Sometimes a formal parent-teacher conference will be necessary. Any discussions with staff will be strictly confidential.

Biting

Biting is a behavior that is prevalent with 1- or 2-year-old children. Because children of this age have very limited language ability, biting can become a way of expressing their feelings. We will confer with parents about ways to discourage this behavior if it occurs.

Discipline Policy

The ECE is dedicated to working with children and parents to create a successful experience and to promote the educational, social and personal development of all our children. When situations of inappropriate behavior arise that undermine an environment conducive to building important skills, intervention is required. While we recognize that children develop at different paces, we expect children's behavior to be consistent with age-appropriate actions and responses. In order to address and correct inappropriate behavior, the ECE will use the following progressive disciplinary steps as a supplement to the routine, ongoing communications that should occur between parents, teachers and students:

Step 1: When guiding and correcting young children, the teacher will provide instructive guidance to the child. The teacher will discuss the behavior with the child, explain what behavior the child needs to change and offer acceptable alternatives. The child will be given an opportunity to correct his/her behavior. The teacher will reinforce the appropriate behavior.

Step 2: If the unacceptable behavior continues, the child may be separated from the class. This will provide the child with the opportunity to think about his/her inappropriate behavior. The teacher will inform the director of the program about the incident, and a written note will be sent home to the parents explaining the behaviors observed and the consequences of those behaviors. A copy will be retained in the child's file as well.

Step 3: If the behavior does not improve, the teacher or program director will contact the parents by telephone to discuss the inappropriate behavior. Note: It is recommended that pre-K children be present when their parents are called. If applicable, the use of behavior modification techniques, including intervention by a professional, also will be discussed at that time. The parents will be advised of potential consequences if the behavior does not change.

Step 4: If the inappropriate behavior continues, a conference between the teacher, program director and parents will be arranged to determine whether or not the child can further benefit from the ECE program. If behavior modification techniques are being used and some improvement has been noted, an additional conference may be scheduled to keep communication channels open. Depending on the severity of the issue, the child may be removed from school for up to three days at the discretion of the ECE director.

Step 5: If inappropriate behavior persists and behavior modification techniques are ineffective or not used, permanent dismissal from the school may be necessary, at the discretion of the ECE director.

Inappropriate behavior may include but is not limited to such acts of aggression as biting, hitting, pinching, kicking, spitting, bullying, verbal barrages such as vulgarities and racist remarks, refusal to follow the direction of an ECE teacher or ECE director, or generally disruptive behavior.

Transition Policy

We understand that transitions can be difficult for children. Effective communication between teachers, parents and ECE administration has proven to be key in ensuring smooth transitions to new classrooms for our children. We work closely with our teachers to help our children adapt to their new environment. In turn, your child's teacher will communicate with you to keep you informed about your child's progress during the first couple of weeks of transition.

In an effort to promote "continuity of care," we arrange for group transitions to occur in January for our Ones, Toddlers and Twos classrooms and in June for all classrooms, excluding Infants. Infants participate in a two-week transition period into the Ones classroom at or around their first birthday.

Enrollment Procedures

JCC Membership

Participation in our Early Childhood Education program is reserved for JCC members only. A child's immediate family must maintain an active JCC membership in good standing throughout the entire time the child is in our program.

Forms

In order to comply with Indiana State Child Care Regulations, the following forms must be completed and returned on or before the first day your child attends our ECE program. For your convenience, these forms are available on the JCC website (www.JCCindy.org) or may be picked up in the ECE administration offices.

These forms need to be completed annually:

- **Feeding Plan**
- **Health Record**
- **Medication Record**
- **Building for the Future**
- **Food Program**
- **Registration**
- **Permissions & Releases**
- **Emergency Information:** Please make the contacts on your emergency form aware they might be called. Only those individuals listed on your form may pick up your child from the program. Please notify the ECE office in writing if phone numbers or any other information on the emergency card changes.
- **Childhood History**
- **Birth Certificate:** Indiana State Child Care Regulations require that all children must have a copy of their birth certificate on file.

Physical Exam

Indiana code requires that we maintain documentation of a current annual exam provided by the physician of each child in our care. Please have your doctor complete the Health Record and return it to our office prior to the beginning of the school year. All physicals must be current within one year of the exam date. Faxed forms are acceptable: 251-9493.

Fee Payment

For your convenience, the JCC offers an EZ payment plan for ECE and membership fees. Payments will be deducted from your checking account or charged to your credit card on the 1st of each month.* Full-time childcare will be deducted monthly for 12 months. Preschool will be deducted only for the 9-month school year, September–May. If you participate in a cafeteria plan for childcare and require a receipt for reimbursement, please contact Accounting (ext. 2210) to arrange for a monthly receipt. You will receive written notice in advance if there is a change in the monthly fee.

The JCC does not grant tuition waivers for vacations or other absences beyond the ECE's regularly-scheduled days off. For extenuating circumstances, tuition prorating may be granted at the discretion of the ECE director. Please submit these requests in writing. We also require notification in writing a minimum of two weeks in advance if a child is being removed from the ECE program.

*The primary member is responsible for all childcare charges. Insufficient funds and/or denial of payment to the JCC will result in a $25 service charge for each occurrence. Three insufficient funds notices and/or credit denials will result in termination of childcare services.

Health

The health of all of the children in our care is a primary concern. If your child is not feeling well or is displaying signs of illness, your child should be kept at home for his/her own well-being as well as for the health of the other ECE children. Children with minor common cold symptoms or not feeling well enough to participate in activities will be observed carefully for signs and symptoms of a worsening condition. Parents will be informed about their child's health.

Should a child become ill during the school day, he/she will be isolated from the other children and a parent or guardian will be contacted. We request that all parents and guardians act on these calls immediately. The child will remain isolated in the Early Childhood office until picked up by an authorized person listed on the emergency card.

Communicable Disease Management

Should any of the children in our care be exposed to a communicable disease, all parents will be notified. As dictated by the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration, a child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be isolated and discharged immediately to a parent or guardian:

- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a twenty-four-hour period)
- Severe coughing causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Potential ear infection
- Temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (mandated by the State of Indiana)
- Untreated infected skin patch(es)
- Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
- Stiff neck
- Green mucus running from nose (sign of infection) other than allergy

A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children:

- Unusual spots or rashes
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- Elevated temperature (over 100° Fahrenheit)
- Vomiting
- Evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infestation

Children are welcome to return to school when:

- They have been without a fever for 24 hours **or**
- They have not had any symptoms for 24 hours **or**
- They have been on the proper medication for 24 hours
- The JCC may request a physician's note of readmittance before the child's return.

Head Lice

While head lice do not pose a health hazard, they are highly contagious. Children who have head lice will be temporarily excluded from school until treated with a pediculicide (see your pharmacist).

Medication, Vitamins, Special Diet

JCC staff will administer prescription and non-prescription medications to your child by doctor's order only. Your physician should complete and sign a medicine form (to be obtained from the ECE office or online and faxed to 251-9493). These forms remain current for one year. Prescription medicine should be brought to the ECE in a properly-labeled pharmacy bottle. All medications are stored out of reach of children and are checked monthly for expiration dates. Expired medication will be sent home.

Food

The JCC provides children with a nutritious, balanced diet of entirely kosher foods. Because of our commitment to creating an environment of inclusiveness so that children coming from kosher homes will be able to partake in meals with classmates, all of our food is kosher. For your convenience, weekly menus are posted in the ECE corridor. Please note that only JCC staff members are allowed in the kitchen.

Breakfast is served daily to children in our full-day programs who arrive before 8 am.

All food brought to the JCC for birthdays and special occasions must be kosher. It must come in the original store packaging and should bear the kosher symbol. You may also come to the JCC and bake a homemade treat for the class. Food should be brought directly to the classroom, not to the ECE kitchen. Dairy items requiring refrigeration must be unopened and bearing the "OU" symbol.

If your child has a food allergy or dietary restriction, please be sure to note it on your Childhood History form.

If you are planning a party at home, we ask that invitations be mailed to your child's classmates unless the entire class is invited. We would appreciate your cooperation with this request so that no one feels excluded.

Communications

The JCC Early Childhood staff is committed to establishing relationships with parents and guardians to bridge the gap between "life at home" and "life at school." We encourage families to call their teacher and/or the ECE director with any questions or concerns and to keep their teacher informed of any variations in sleep or appetite, special concerns, irritability or unusual situations at home. In the event of a divorce or any other changes affecting the family, please notify your child's teacher. Our staff is always available to meet with you privately to discuss any concerns you have regarding the welfare of your child.

ECE administrators and teachers will communicate with parents via JCC email and telephone. Unless a situation of an emergent nature occurs, our teachers have been directed not to use their personal cell phones, including text/picture messaging, for school communications. Periodic conferences and phone calls between parents and teachers and/or the ECE director may be initiated by either parents or staff. Frequently we will send materials home with your child. Please check your child's cubby and backpack daily for artwork, notes, fliers and regular communiqués from the Early Childhood Education department.

School Closings

Inclement Weather

If a determination is made that the school will not open or will have a delayed opening due to inclement weather or for any other reason, an announcement will be posted on the JCC website, www.JCCindy.org, and the following media will be notified:

WRTV Channel 6 | WISHTV Channel 8 | WTHR Channel 13 | Fox59

You may always call the JCC at 251-9467 for confirmation that we are operating under normal hours.

Holidays

The JCC closes in observation of Jewish and secular holidays and for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. In some cases, special hours apply. See page 14 for the 2011–2012 ECE Calendar. Please check the JCC website, *Update* newsletter or building signage for holiday hours and updates.

Jewish Holidays Guide

All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the day before the dates listed below and conclude at sundown on the day of the holiday.

Shabbat

Celebrated weekly Friday sundown–Saturday sundown. Shabbat is the celebration of the creation of the world and of human dignity and freedom. The holiest day of the week is a day of rest, worship, study and fellowship.

Rosh Hashana: The New Year

Mon–Tues, September 17–18 (1–2 Tishrei)

"In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion proclaimed with loud blasts [of the shofar]" Leviticus 23:24–25. The blast of the ram's horn is a call to attention to examine our behavior over the past year and to repent for our transgressions. On Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, everyone is judged by God based on his or her actions during the previous year. The resulting judgment is inscribed in the *Book of Life,* and a person's future is determined for the following year. Though that judgment is inscribed, it is not yet sealed and can still be changed for at least another ten days, when, on Yom Kippur, God seals the book for the next year.

Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement

Wed, September 26 (10 Tishrei)

Yom Kippur is the holy day that brings Jews closer to God through the process of prayer and repentance. On this day of atonement, Jews all over the world fast for 24 hours to help us transcend our physical natures and to completely focus on our prayers. Individually and collectively, we seek forgiveness for our transgressions against God and our acquaintances. By so doing, we in effect wipe the slate clean for the upcoming year. On Yom Kippur, God judges all Jews and inscribes those who have atoned for their sins in the *Book of Life* for the next year.

Sukkot: Celebration of Safely Wandering in the Desert for 40 Years

Mon–Tues, October 1–2 (15–21 Tishrei)

This joyous holiday comes just five days after Yom Kippur. It is only after achieving a new level of purity through atonement on Yom Kippur that we can be truly joyous on this holiday that celebrates the Jews' exodus from Egypt. For 40 years the Jews lived in the desert in temporary dwellings called "sukkot." During the seven days of this festival, we celebrate by building, eating, entertaining and sleeping in a "sukkah," the temporary shelter constructed with a view of the sky and decorated with produce, branches and all things natural and beautiful.

Shmini Atzaret: Close of Sukkot

Mon, October 8 (22 Tishrei)

Shmini Atzaret is celebrated on the eighth day following the first day of Sukkot. Not only does it officially mark the close of the seven days of Sukkot, it is significant in that the number eight recalls the eighth day upon which a newborn boy's covenant with God is sealed with the "brit milah," circumcision.

Simchat Torah: Rejoicing of the Torah

Tues, October 9 (23 Tishrei)

The holiday of Simchat Torah celebrates the completion and the beginning of the reading of the Torah. In so doing, it celebrates the relationship between God and Israel when God was revealed on Mount Sinai and handed down the Torah to Moses. It is a holiday of much joy and dancing with the Torah scrolls. The scrolls are laid out for all to see and rerolled so as to begin reading anew from the first chapter, first verse of Genesis.

Chanukah: Festival of Lights

Sun–Sun, December 9–16 (25 Kislev–2 Tevet)

When Judah Maccabee and his band of freedom fighters entered the Temple in Jerusalem after a hard-fought war, they were distraught to find that three years of Syrian occupation had turned the holy place into a pagan site. They cleansed the Temple and rededicated it (in Hebrew, "Chanukat Habayit") on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, 165 BCE. Although the war to free the land of Judea from Syrian/Greek rule lasted many more years, we joyously commemorate Chanukah based on the regaining of our Temple. Years later, the Rabbis of the Talmud revealed the famous miracle story about the small jug of oil that provided the Temple with enough fuel for eight days. Chanukah is celebrated by lighting the hanukkiyah (Chanukah menorah), playing dreidel (a top), eating latkes (potato pancakes) and giving children gelt (money).

Tu B'Shevat: Festival of Trees

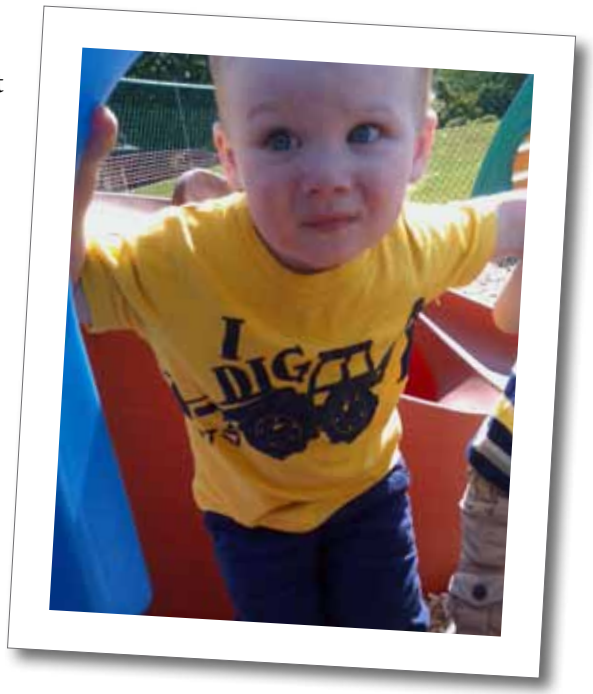
Sat, January 26 (15 Shevat)

Tu B'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat) is also known as the New Year for Trees. It is customary on this day to eat fruit and nuts from trees and to plant trees in Israel.

Purim: Day of Rejoicing

Sun, February 24 (14 Adar)

The revelry and rejoicing of Purim celebrate the defeat by Mordechai and Queen Esther of the wicked Haman, who had attempted to destroy all the Jews in Persia. The name "Purim" means "lots" or "dice," the device Haman used to choose the date for the Jews' destruction. Traditionally, children and adults dress in costume, and a carnival atmosphere prevails. The book of Esther is read out loud, and children twirl noisemakers known as groggers to "blot out" Haman's name each time it is read. The holiday reminds us that Esther's privileged status as queen did not lessen her responsibility to her people, and neither should privilege in our life lessen our sense of responsibility toward others.



Passover (Pesach): Exodus from Egypt

Tues-Tues, March 26-April 2 (15–22 Nisan)

Passover recalls the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery. The name refers to God's "passing over" or protecting the homes of the Israelites from the ten plagues levied against the Egyptians. At the "seder" or "ordered meal," the story of Exodus is read from the Haggadah narrative and shared with family and friends. Through this ritual, we symbolically recreate the experience and hardships of our ancestors and celebrate God's gifts of freedom and redemption. During the holiday period Jews eat flat, unleavened bread—matzah—in remembrance of the haste in which the Jewish slaves left Egypt without enough time to allow the bread to rise.

Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Memorial Day

Sun, April 7 (27 Nisan)

On this solemn occasion, we remember the six million who perished during the Holocaust. In the period of a relatively few years, approximately one-third of all European Jewry, including nearly 90% of Jews in Poland, Germany, Austria and the Baltic nations, perished under the Nazi regime. Rituals, liturgy and customs for this day are still developing. Communities gather to read memorial prayers as well as testimonies of victims and survivors.

Yom Haatzmaot: Israel Independence Day

Tues, April 16 (5 Iyar)

Yom Haatzmaot (Israel Independence Day) celebrates the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Over six decades later, Israel still stands as the cultural and spiritual center of the Jewish people as well as the refuge for oppressed Jews worldwide.

Lag B'omer: Day of Celebration

Sun, April 28 (18 Iyar)

Lag B'omer is a students' or scholars' holiday associated with the great Rabbi Akiva and other rabbis and disciples during the revolt against the Romans. It is a day of rejoicing celebrated with picnics and bonfires.

Shavuot: Harvest of First Fruits

Wed–Thurs, May 15–16 (6–7 Sivan)

Known as the Harvest of First Fruits, Shavuot marks the end of the grain harvest, which began on Passover. Shavuot also commemorates the revelation of Torah with its Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai during the forty years of wandering in the desert. The Torah mentions that it took 49 days, or seven weeks, to reach Mount Sinai from Egypt. Shavuot (which means "weeks") comes at the conclusion of this "week of weeks."

Tisha B'Av: Day of Mourning

Tues, July 16 (9 Av)

Many tragic events happened to the Jewish people on the ninth day of the month of Av: the fall of the first and second Temples in Jerusalem, the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and the beginning of World War I, ultimately culminating in the Holocaust, as well as other events throughout history. This is one of the saddest days in Jewish history.

where it's GREAT to be a kid

2012 Date	Day	Holiday / Event	Schedule
June 11-15	Mon-Fri	ECE Summer Book Fair	Check out our book fair!
July 4	Wed	Independence Day	ECE Closed
July 10	Tues	ECE Summer Family Event	6–8 pm (All ECE families are invited to attend this event at the JCC's Eskenazi Aquatic Complex)
Aug 8	Wed	Teacher In-service Day	ECE Closed
Aug 9	Thurs	Teacher In-service Day	ECE Closed
Aug 10	Fri	Teacher In-service Day	ECE Closed
Sept 3	Mon	Labor Day	ECE Closed
Sept 17	Mon	Rosh Hashana 1st Day	ECE Closed
Sept 18	Tues	Rosh Hashana 2nd Day	ECE Closed
Sept 25	Tues	Yom Kippur Eve	ECE Closes at 3 pm
Sept 26	Wed	Yom Kippur	ECE Closed
Oct 1	Mon	Sukkot 1st Day	ECE Closed
Oct 3	Wed	ECE School Picture Day	Pictures begin at 9 am
Oct 8	Mon	Shmini Atzaret-Simchat Torah Eve	ECE Closed
Oct 25	Thurs	ECE Fall Family Event	5–7 pm (All families are invited to attend this event and enjoy time with the teachers and other ECE families as well as purchase pictures.)
Nov 9	Fri	Teacher In-service Day	ECE Closed
Nov 14	Wed	ECE Thanksgiving Luncheon	11:30 am, Laikin Auditorium
Nov 21	Wed	Thanksgiving Eve	ECE Closes at 5 pm
Nov 22	Thurs	Thanksgiving	ECE Closed
Nov 23	Fri	Day After Thanksgiving	ECE Closed
Dec 12	Wed	Chanukah Program	7 pm, Laikin Auditorium
Dec 10–14	Mon–Fri	ECE Winter Book Fair	Check out our book fair!
Dec 24	Mon	Christmas Eve	ECE Closes at 5 pm
Dec 25	Tues	Christmas	ECE Closed
Dec 31	Mon	New Year's Eve	ECE Closes at 5 pm

2013 Date	Day	Holiday / Event	Schedule
Jan 1	Tues	New Year's Day	ECE Closed
Jan 30	Wed	Tu B'shevat Celebration	Classroom Activities
Feb 20	Wed	Purim Parade	Classroom Activities
Mar 13	Wed	Passover Seder	Laikin Auditorium
Mar 15	Fri	Teacher In-service	ECE Closed
Mar 20	Wed	Spring Sing	7 pm, Laikin Auditorium
Mar 25	Mon	Passover Eve (1st Seder)	ECE Closes at 3 pm
Mar 26	Tues	1st Day of Passover	ECE Closed
Apr 1	Mon	7th Day of Passover	ECE Closed
May 14	Tues	Shavuot Eve	ECE Closes at 5 pm
May 15	Wed	Shavuot	ECE Closed
May 27	Mon	Memorial Day	ECE Closed
May 28	Tues	ECE Transition Day	Regular Hours

Contact Us

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251-9467 | Fax: 251-9493 | www.JCCindy.org

We encourage parents to communicate directly with their child's teacher.
Each classroom has a phone and voicemail.

Classroom	**Extension**
Infants	2237
Ones & Twos	2254
Aleph B & Bet	2266
Aleph A & Toddler	2400
Infants 2 & Gimmel	2225
Daled	2224
Directors	
ECE Director	2215
ECE Assistant Director	2282
JCC Associate Director	2214
JCC Executive Director	2201