

The Early Childhood Collaborative

Jewish early childhood programs are instrumental for planting the seeds for lifelong learning and community involvement.

THE JUF EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE (“THE COLLABORATIVE”) launched in April 2018 as a broad-based coalition of early childhood directors, teachers, researchers, and community members committed to increasing access to and enrollment in high quality Jewish early childhood education in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Its core goals include strengthening the pipeline of teachers and leaders; advancing a culture of excellence in the schools; and expanding access to education by lowering financial and geographic barriers that families may face.

Members of The Collaborative include 37 non-profit, center-based, Jewish early childhood programs in Greater Chicago that reach 600 educators, more than 2600 families, and more than 3,000 young children. The majority of programs are DCFS licensed. The Collaborative seeks to be an exemplar for other communities to make deep, seismic changes in their early childhood programming to meet the diverse needs of children and families. Its initiatives and learnings have the potential to transform early childhood programs far and wide.

Who Can Attend Jewish Early Childhood Programs:

- Programs are available to children of all faiths.
- Programs serve children with diverse developmental and learning needs and welcome Early Intervention providers.
- Programs serve a range of ages between 6 weeks and 5 years.
- Programs provide half-day or full-day options.



Financial Incentives for Attending Jewish Early Childhood Programs:

- **JUF Right Start** provides a financial voucher for qualifying families enrolling their children during the academic year in a Jewish infant, toddler or preschool program for the first time.
 - » \$1,000 if the child plans on attending 2 or 3 days a week
 - » \$2,000 if the child plans on attending 4 or 5 days a week
- Many programs offer scholarships and utilize the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).



Recognition for the Collaborative:

- The Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative was named a Slingshot “10 to Watch” Organization for its innovative ideas and success in creating positive change. Visit slingshotfund.org/10-to-watch for more information.



The Collaborative Goals:

- Strengthening pipeline of teachers and leaders
 - » The Chicago Teachers Project is a two-year fellowship that trains early childhood educators to use innovative teaching practices.
 - » The Collaborative hosts leadership retreats that bring together program leaders to learn about topics relevant to staff and families.
 - » The Collaborative partners with Erikson Institute to offer an online Master of Science in Early Childhood Education program to select teachers.
- Advancing a culture of excellence
 - » Consistently identifies areas of growth for our classrooms and structures professional development around those needs. We are currently evaluating multiple assessment models to find the best fit for our programs.
 - » The Collaborative focuses on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives including multiple intensive learning and anti-bias sessions for educators, and it provides early childhood programs with age-appropriate books celebrating diversity.

"I had never considered working with children as a career; when I got the chance [to work in a progressive Jewish early childhood center], I was blown away by the intellectual challenge and creativity before me. With my new perspective as a teacher, I was amazed by the children's sense of curiosity, and I rediscovered my own." — A Collaborative teacher

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PROVIDED BY JUF:
(Click each logo to learn more)

jBabyChicago

PJ Library

Partner programs:

[Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School](#)

[Arie Crown Hebrew Day School](#)

[Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School](#)

[Beth Tikvah Congregation Early Childhood Center](#)

[BJE's Early Childhood Program at the Chava Center](#)

[BJE Early Childhood Center, Northbrook](#)

[BJE Early Childhood Center Wilmette](#)

[Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School](#)

[Chicago Jewish Day School](#)

[Childrenz Center](#)

[Congregation Beth Shalom Early Learning Center](#)

[Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program](#)

[Ginsburg Solomon Schechter Day School
Early Childhood Center](#)

[Glasser Preschool at Oak Park Temple](#)

[Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School](#)

[JCC Bernard Horwich](#)

[JCC Bernard Weinger](#)

[JCC Chicago Early Childhood at Am Shalom](#)

[JCC Chicago Early Childhood at Beth Emet Synagogue](#)

[JCC Chicago Early Childhood at 'Z' Frank Apachi](#)

[JCC Florence G. Heller](#)

[JCC Jacob Duman Early Childhood Center](#)

[JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center - Highland Park](#)

[JCYS Michael R. Lutz Family Center - Lincoln Square](#)

[JCYS Michael R. Lutz Family Center - Wicker Park](#)

[JCYS Northwest Family Center](#)

[Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov](#)

[JRC Early Childhood Center](#)

[Moadon Kol Chadash-Gan Gani](#)

[Moriah Early Childhood Center](#)

[Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Preschool and NSS Beth El](#)

[Shaarei Chinuch Montessori Day School](#)

[Sinai Preschool](#)

[Torah Academy](#)

[West Suburban Temple Har Zion](#)

[Yeshiva Ohr Baruch](#)

Find a program your child will love through our preschool finder: juf.org/preschoolfinder

JEWISH EARLY CHILDHOOD
collab**orative**

Powered by the Jewish United Fund, the Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative is a broad-based coalition of early childhood directors, teachers, researchers, and community members working together to increase access to and enrollment in high quality Jewish early childhood education.