



2016-2017
School Year



JCC

PRESCHOOL

TAMPA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER & FEDERATION

Where we learn to play...and play to learn!

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Tampa Jewish Community Center and Federation Preschool. We look forward to the opportunity to work with your child. Our goals are to guide children as they grow and develop in a positive and nurturing atmosphere. We want each child to develop a love of learning and a love of self, the foundation on which future education and life choices will be built.

At our preschool, children learn through play and hands-on experiences that are meaningful to them. Children are given opportunities to experiment, discover, explore and express their ideas in an open environment. The program is designed to meet the developmental needs of each child.

If you haven't already scheduled a tour, please give us a call. We look forward to welcoming you and your child.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Goldberg, PhD
Executive Director of Education

"The blend of strong academic instruction, in combination with learning about Jewish traditions, is one of the great things about the JCC Preschool."
- Preschool Parent



Overview

The Tampa Jewish Community Center and Federation (TJCC&F) Preschool is a joyful and inclusive community of learners devoted to cultivating the creative spirit of young children and families through inquiry and meaningful experiences. Trained professionals provide an excellent secular program enhanced with rich Judaic components. We offer a variety of programs for children, ages 12 months through five years. The educational component of the preschool is based on the developmental needs of each child and is guided by the current best practices in early childhood education. A combination of strategies are used to teach emerging literacy and math concepts, science, social studies, motor development, character development, creative art, and music to all our children.

It's great to be here. I love how my teachers let me do different things, like painting and playing with blocks.
- Preschool Student

I like going to the JCC because I love to see my teachers every day!
- Preschool Student

The preschool staff is amazing and I trust the teachers absolutely.
- Preschool Parent



Emotional Development relates to the growth and maintenance of a child's healthy and comfortable separation from parents. This includes growing feelings of self-esteem and general happiness, and an eagerness to participate in school activities. We encourage your child to verbalize his or her feelings toward others, resolve conflicts independently, and to show initiative while making appropriate choices about what to do and how to do it.

Physical Development includes improving gross and fine motor coordination, increasing strength and agility, and developing an appreciation of the importance of good life-long health habits.

Creative Development emphasizes the process that allows a child to imagine, be original, generate a variety of different ideas through divergent thinking, problem-solve, and gain the ability to produce a tangible outcome. Encouragement of children's play is fundamental to our creative environment. Our teachers facilitate play in open classroom centers through process-oriented art, dramatic play, music and movement. Through it all, children are encouraged to verbalize their thinking and expand upon ideas.

Jewish Identity is explored through integrating Judaic experiences into a child's life through song, story, art, cooking and movement. Our Judaic curriculum focuses on traditions and exploring values. Jewish traditions are enriched through additional holiday and Shabbat activities.

Goals

Cognitive Development prepares your child for successful school experiences. Literacy, science, social studies and mathematical concepts are woven into the natural work of the classroom. Children develop critical thinking skills as they participate in and explore activities that require them to classify, sort, examine, synthesize, and apply their thinking to new experiences.

Social Development includes learning how to cooperate, share and interact with others, as well as how to make friends and relate positively to other children and adults. Children learn to sit and listen as part of a group, follow rules, and participate in an organized routine. Your child will gain confidence as he or she is encouraged to think critically, make good choices and act independently.

What Makes Us Unique?

The Tampa Jewish Community Center and Federation Preschool combines academic excellence with a nurturing, supportive community. Our preschool is open to everyone, regardless of race or religion, and we welcome families with varied interests and backgrounds. The Tampa JCC and Federation Preschool provides two convenient locations. The North Branch Preschool is adjacent to the Tampa JCC and Federation building on a beautiful, 22-acre secured campus. Some of our amenities include an [eco-friendly playground](#) with a chilled water fountain, as well as a nature trail and outdoor garden. Our South Branch Preschool is located at the Irving Cohen Center at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in South Tampa, in close proximity to downtown Tampa. Its amenities include a modern playground, as well as a chilled water fountain. Additionally, our members enjoy year-round use of our sports and modern fitness facility, and discounts on events and programs.

Our experienced professional teaching staff works hard to develop [nurturing relationships](#) and build connections with your child, while implementing stimulating and developmentally-appropriate learning experiences. The success of our program is due to the talents of our teachers and the dedication that the entire staff exhibits on a daily basis. Our teachers receive ongoing training in new developments in the early childhood education field. Each person who works with your child is fully vetted with local, state and federal background checks.

There are [two teachers in each classroom](#), at least one of which holds a degree or certification in early childhood education. Many of our assistant teachers already have, or are working toward, earning a national or state certification.

[Lunch Bunch](#) offers additional child care options to parents who need a little extra time in their day. This program provides a safe and stimulating environment for your child from noon until 3:00 p.m. each weekday (noon until 2:00 p.m. for two-year olds) as an extension to the preschool morning. Children have the opportunity to explore various learning centers, paint, build with blocks, play outdoors, and enjoy a snack. Experienced teachers facilitate the program and reservations must be made in advance. Reservations can be made for a day or week at a time, or for the entire year. Space is limited, so please plan accordingly.

Our strong [Parent Association](#) enables parents to help in their child's school, provides our school with [cultural arts](#) programs, assists with special activities and functions, and organizes [fundraising projects](#) for the school. Our parents are a vital part of our school community.

Much of what adds to the quality of our preschools' programs is the [tenure among our teachers](#). Our extremely low turnover rate fosters collaboration, creates staff community, and enriches our school.

Continuity of care and daily communication help provide a seamless transition from home to school, emphasizing our commitment to the entire family. [Weekly e-newsletters](#) and active [social media](#) pages are part of our growing commitment to technology that help us share daily events and important resources with families. Additionally, we have two regularly scheduled [parent-teacher conferences](#) each school year to keep you apprised of your child's progress.

The [Preschool Rugrats](#) program is for parents or caregivers and their children, ages infant through two years. A facilitator leads both children and parent in either play time, art, music and/or movement activities. Activities related to Jewish holidays and traditions are also woven into this morning program.





Enrollment Q&A

When Can I Apply?

Application dates for the 2016-2017 summer session and school year are listed on the back of this brochure. Members of Congregation Rodeph Shalom, where the South Branch Preschool is located, may apply the first week along with current families. Jewish Community Center and Federation members and local synagogue members begin the application process the following week. Application opens to the general community later in the second week. You may apply as a current family if you have a child currently registered in the preschool. All siblings may apply at the same time.

What Do I Need to Apply?

A completed application form is required for each child you are enrolling in the preschool, accompanied by a registration fee. The registration is non-refundable. In addition, a completed ACH/Credit Card Authorization Form must be submitted.

Complete information packets, including forms required before attending, for parents and families are mailed out prior to the beginning of summer camp and preschool.

Do siblings receive a discount?

Families with two or more enrolled children are eligible for a 10% discount on tuition for the second and any additional children.

Are scholarships available?

Limited financial assistance may be available for families that need scholarships or fee adjustments. Please follow the general application procedure and pay all fees. Financial aid applications can be obtained from your preschool office.



Programs

1's Class (Kitah Aleph א)

Child must be 12 months & walking by September 1, 2016

Our 1's program provides a safe and loving environment for your toddler with convenient and flexible hours for working parents. Class size is limited. The program offers an engaging, developmentally-appropriate curriculum that includes playground time, music, physical education, Judaics, storytelling, arts and crafts, center time, and early literacy. Toddlers learn early social skills and educational concepts. This program provides a wonderful introduction to the preschool experience for the young child.

2's Class (Kitah Bet ב)

Child must be 2 by September 1, 2016

In the 2's program, we build on concepts explored in the 1's program. We encourage independence and introduce children to school routines. We offer 2-, 3-, or 5-days a week periods. The curriculum addresses the social, emotional, cognitive, creative, physical, and spiritual development of each child. Teachers guide the children in a positive and nurturing environment, while encouraging language development, creativity, and exploration of the world around them.

3's Class (Kitah Gimmel ג)

Child must be 3 by September 1, 2016

Offering a 3-day or 5-day program, our 3's classes provide developmentally-appropriate curriculum in an environment that promotes literacy, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills. Teachers and families work together to promote independence in each child. Thematic learning units provide options for intellectual curiosity and develop emerging readiness skills, preparing them for entry into the 4-year-old program.

Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) (Kitah Dalet ד)

Child must be 4 by September 1, 2016

The Pre-Kindergarten program provides a nurturing environment that challenges and engages children. A print-rich classroom supports emerging literacy skills, number sense, and scientific inquiry. Providing a rich foundation in preparation for kindergarten, it is a program that uses children's natural curiosity and wonder to motivate them to become actively involved in their own learning.

Because of the difference in the number of instructional hours – the length of the school day and school year – we anticipate families choosing the Pre-Kindergarten program that includes VPK with additional days and hours. Priority is given to students who register for the full PreK program.

Gan (Bridge Kindergarten)

Child must be 5 by September 1, 2016

The JCC *Gan* is a bridge kindergarten in an early childhood setting designed for children who might benefit from another year to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and/or academically. Rather than repeating a PreKindergarten classroom, this Bridge Kindergarten offers children who have turned 5-years old by September 1st, the gift of an added or enhanced year for children who fall on the "cusp" of entry into elementary school. Children are prepared to enter either Kindergarten or First Grade as they graduate from the JCC *Gan*.

Children enrolled in *Gan* will strive toward similar goals as those of a Kindergarten program, but will work at a modified pace in a classroom with a low child to teacher ratio for extra care and individualized attention. This Bridge Kindergarten program prepares children for elementary school in a small, nurturing environment with skillful, thoughtful teachers. The program creates a dynamic classroom experience that respects children's ideas and helps them grow socially and intellectually.

Program Registration Fees

Preschool & Summer Session

The Tampa JCC Preschool is available year round, beginning in June of 2016 through May of 2017. For children attending only in the summer, our sessions are from June 14 – July 8 and July 11 – August 5.

Early Bird: \$175

Current Jewish Community Center and Federation members are eligible for the early bird registration fee until **March 7, 2016**. After this date, regular registration fees will apply. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Regular: \$200

Regular registration fees apply to Jewish Community Center and Federation members who register after March 7, 2016 and all other applicants.

Things to Know

Accreditation

The Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing Office licenses each of the preschools. This insures that we meet the necessary health and safety requirements established by Hillsborough County and the State of Florida.

North Branch License #: CHC 110288

South Branch License #: CTA 130310

The preschools provide your child with the highest quality of early childhood education and child care. The JCC Preschool is accredited by the National Accreditation Commission (NAC), a division of the that the preschools are providing quality early childhood education in a safe and nurturing environment. For further information on our accreditation and developmental approach to education, contact our preschool directors.

Developmentally-Appropriate Practice

We follow a research-based approach that recognizes that children learn through physical, emotional, social and cognitive experiences that are active and concrete. Developmentally-appropriate practices consider the age and individual differences of each child including:

- Activities and learning centers based upon each child's age, interest and development
- Literacy, math, science and social studies concepts integrated into play and the curriculum
- A print-rich classroom full of activity, as children interact with each other and the materials.

Teachers plan classroom activities that are informed by the knowledge of the age group and the individual child. Experiences are differentiated to meet the needs of all children in the classroom. Teachers guide children in their selection of materials and engage them in extending their thinking and communication skills.

Snack and Lunch Policy

The preschool is sensitive to children's food allergies and religious dietary preferences. For this reason, children bring their own morning snack and lunch. In observance of Jewish dietary laws or *kashrut*, please send foods that are vegetarian, dairy, or fish. Do not send meat or shellfish.

Summer Camp

The Tampa Jewish Community Center & Federation (TJCC&F) Preschool Summer Camp provides a summer of fun and friends for our youngest campers. As an extension of our preschool experience, camp is designed to help children discover the world around them through hands-on experiences and to develop their ever-growing sense of wonder and curiosity.

Camp is fun for those who want to spend time with their friends and also provides a wonderful transition into the preschool environment. Daily classroom activities include open centers, arts and crafts, science, playground time, sports and more! Visits by a variety of specialists enhance your child's summer experience.

Swimming

At the North Branch, swimming instruction is an important part of camp for the young child. Swim time is instructional and facilitated by our Red Cross Certified aquatics instructors in conjunction with your child's teachers. Swim instruction for Pre-K and Kindergarten children will be held everyday; for children in the 3's, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and for children in the 2's Tuesday and Thursdays.

Transportation

Transportation to and from the main TJCC&F Campus is currently available from the Irving Cohen Center at Rodeph Sholom. Transportation for children attending the preschool camp is only recommended for children that are enrolling in the Pre-K and Kindergarten programs. There is no PM transportation for campers leaving before 4 PM. Those campers in year-round extended care must pay the transportation fee separate from their summer camp fees. There is limited space available. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like siblings to ride together, please indicate this on your registration form. Friend requests will be honored only if space allows. *(A minimum number of children is required to provide transportation.)*

Tampa JCC and Federation Preschool North

On the Maureen and Douglas Cohn
Jewish Community Campus
13013 Community Campus Drive
Tampa, FL 33625

P: 813.962.2863 • F: 813.960.7824
jewishtampa.com/jcc-programs/preschool

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jccpsn
Twitter: twitter.com/tampajccpsn
Pinterest: pinterest.com/tampajccpsn/

Tampa JCC and Federation Preschool South

At Irving Cohen Center at Congregation Rodeph Sholom
2710 South Ysabella Avenue
Tampa, FL 33629

P: 813.835.6614 • F: 813.835.6826
jccpreschoolsouth.com
jewishtampa.com/jcc-programs/preschool

Facebook: facebook.com/jcc.preschoolsouth
Twitter: twitter.com/@tampajccps

Tampa Jewish Community Center & Federation

13009 Community Campus Drive
Tampa, FL 33625-4000

P: 813.264.9000
jewishtampa.com

Jennifer Goldberg, Executive Director of Education
Sandy O'Brien, South Branch Director
Tracey Frank, North Branch Director
Jack Ross, Tampa JCC Executive Director



2016-2017 Preschool Year

Enrollment for Summer of 2016 and the 2016-2017 School Year

Current Families: Monday, January 25, 2016
Jewish Community Center and Federation & Area
Synagogue Members: Monday, February 1, 2016
New Families: Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Summer Session June 14, 2016 - August 5, 2016
School Year August 15, 2016 - May 26, 2017

