

## Statement of Purpose:



The Worcester JCC Early Childhood Center provides a comprehensive classroom experience centered on the needs of the child and the collective community. Children are assigned to classrooms based on their age and readiness for the activities in that classroom. Each classroom provides an age-appropriate environment and customized curriculum for its group of students.

### Our Philosophy for the Center:

Our philosophy is based on and embraces the Reggio Emilia philosophy. This is a whole-child developmental approach that emphasizes the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of each child. Learning is a dynamic process during which children construct their own knowledge through play and active exploration with their environment. Our curriculum is developed through observing and understanding each child's individual skills and interest level.

Children engage in a variety of activities throughout their day depending on what they are currently learning about in their classroom.

## Preschool Electives:

45 min classes start at 1:15pm, available for an extra fee.

**Art:** Children are exposed to a wide variety of artists from around the world and the unique techniques they use. They will have the opportunity to create and explore their own works of art!



**Cooking:** Children learn the basics of cooking through hands-on experiences using creative child-friendly recipes.

**S.T.E.M.:** Science, technology, engineering, and math are all explored in this class. Children investigate, ask questions and problem solve by exploring the world around them.

**Sports: Choose from 4 classes:** Micro Soccer; This active class focuses on age appropriate soccer skills and fun games.

Little Dribblers; Learn the fundamentals of passing, dribbling and shooting on our adjustable hoops.

Sports Galore; Children will learn various sports and activities while having fun with others.

T-Ball; Children will learn basic baseball skills; throwing, hitting and base running.

Worcester



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

### INFANT PROGRAM:

3 months - 15 months  
Monday—Friday

### TODDLER PROGRAM:

15 months - 2.9 years

### PRESCHOOL PROGRAM:

2.9 years - 5 years

### Center Hours:

7:30am—5:30pm

### Toddler & Preschool Attending Options:

5 days: Monday—Friday

3 days: Monday / Wednesday / Friday

2 days: Tuesday / Thursday



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## Daily Activities:

Children engage in a variety of activities throughout their day depending on what they are currently learning about in their classroom. Here are the areas where children are learning and exploring during their day with us.



**Art:** Children have the opportunity to use a variety of materials and explore with textures such as paper, glue, child sized scissors, pom poms, paint, and more to create and use their imagination and creativity. **Science:** Children experiment with different objects from nature, such as leaves, rocks, and seashells, using items such as magnifying glasses, tweezers, and sorting trays to explore. Teachers encourage children to be curious, make discoveries, and think scientifically. Children observe, ask questions, and predict what might happen.

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**Social Studies:** Children learn about themselves and their community. They use a variety of activities such as small/large group instruction, listening to books, completing puzzles, and looking at maps.

**Social-Emotional:** Children learn about their feelings and others' feelings. They learn how to practice waiting and to use words to express their needs. They develop how to resolve conflicts that occur during play, and they learn how to create and maintain friendships.

**Fine Motor:** Teachers fill the room with puzzles, pegboards, beads, and other small construction toys. Children develop fine motor skills by using their fingers and hands. They learn hand/eye coordination and practice problem-solving skills.

**Gross Motor:** Children are exposed to activities, which help with developing their large muscles along with their coordination and balance. Gross motor activities include dancing, yoga, and obstacle course.

**Math:** Children are exposed to numbers by learning to compare, sort, count and create patterns using items such as manipulative toys.

**Dramatic Play:** Classrooms are outfitted with areas for dramatic play such as cooking, dressing or pretending to be a community helper. Children learn through exploration and dramatic play is a tremendous outlet for this kind of learning.

**Music/Movement:** Children have the opportunity to experiment with sound, use instruments, and listen to music. They are also exposed to different music from around the world.

**Literacy:** Children are exposed to literacy throughout their day by engaging in listening to stories being read to them, playing various games using letters, and observing written words around the classroom and pictures that connect them. Teachers and children sing songs and begin to identify rhyming words.



## Swim Exploration:

With the JCC Aquatics staff, preschool children enjoy group swim instruction to become acclimated to the water and the basics of age appropriate swimming. Group swim exploration starts with creating a positive association with swimming and water safety. By the end of preschool, the children will have attained a set of excellent basic skills for swimming and water safety to build on as they grow.



Children must be prepared to go swimming on their classrooms designated swim day. Teachers go into the pool with them.

**Sports:** Children are exposed to and learn about a variety of sports in our Gymnasium with our Phys. Ed. staff by participating in and playing games and unique skills and aspects of many sports. They experience the joy of movement, are introduced to basic exercises, learn about team work and start acquiring skills to play specific games and team sports.

**Our Staff:** Our Teachers are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care (EEC), and many hold a bachelor's or master's degree, and years of experience in the field. They are dedicated and caring professionals with expert knowledge in early education and child development. The teachers understand child development best practices, allowing them to create and implement an appropriate curriculum to support the whole child including socially, physically, and emotionally.

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