



**PJCC** PRESCHOOL



Meet Ari ("lion"),  
friend to all preschoolers

## WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

Build a sandcastle with new friends; plant a seed in our organic garden; create a science experiment with your classmates – the PJCC invites you and your family to learn and play with us at our award-winning preschool. We welcome you and your child into our caring, nurturing environment where we honor and value each individual and their family. We hope you will join us on this once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery.



*It's a preschool for my child, as well as our whole family.*

-PJCC Preschool Parent

# OUR PHILOSOPHY OF VALUES-INSPIRED GROWTH

## LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Whether building sky-high towers of wooden blocks, measuring sand into buckets, or painting a bright rainbow, children make sense of their world and learn new skills through play. Our play-based learning environment is supported by the most current child development research, and engages young minds by sparking their creativity, curiosity, and imagination. Children are naturally motivated to learn skills that translate to success in school and life.

## VALUES-INSPIRED GROWTH

The PJCC is guided by Jewish principles and culture, including the value of *Hachnasat Orchim* (welcoming all), and the importance of *Kehilla u'Mishpacha* (our community of family and friends). Inspired by these values, our preschool emphasizes the importance of relationship building and social development, recognizing each child's unique and special abilities. Every child is respected as a competent and capable learner, full of potential and talent.

*We are bowled over by the quality, the genuine kindness, and olive branch of friendship the PJCC has offered us. Thank you for making the most important choice for us so simple, so wonderful, so truly blessed.*

–PJCC Preschool Parent



STUDENTS INCREASE PEACE IN THE WORLD



תלמידי חכמים מרבים שלום בעולם

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A JEWISH PRESCHOOL THAT HONORS DIVERSITY

Our program incorporates the richness of Jewish values, traditions, and celebrations throughout the school year. We welcome everyone with joy, including all faiths and backgrounds, and we are proud of our diverse community. We are guided by Jewish values that are universal and speak to our shared humanity, such as: *Derek Eretz* (common courtesy), *Hachnasat Orchim* (welcoming guests) *Hava'at Shalom Bayn Adam L'havero* (bringing peace between people) *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness) and *Tzedakah* (righteousness). While these values have Hebrew names, they resonate with all cultures and backgrounds.

Featured artwork created by PJCC  
Preschool students and families  
with visiting artist Rosana Azar.

*Our child comes home singing in Hebrew regularly  
and loves to educate us about various  
holidays and traditions.*

–PJCC Preschool Parent





# OUR CURRICULUM

Children learn about themselves, the world around them, and the richness of Jewish life in a safe atmosphere filled with love, joy, and respect for all.

## FUNDAMENTALS INCLUDE:

### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Self-esteem, social interaction, self-control, conflict resolution skills, self-help skills, and confidence

### **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Early literacy, foundational mathematics, science exploration, music, language development, and creative arts

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Motor development, personal hygiene, nutrition, safety, music, and movement





# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our program celebrates each child's unique journey, encouraging individual growth and learning. Over the course of the school year, children will develop a sense of trust and comfort with their teachers and peers, deepen understanding of emotions, and expand their social, language, and motor skills. Children will also be introduced to the Jewish Holidays and will enjoy celebrations throughout the year. Children are not required to be toilet trained to attend our programs; toilet learning is incorporated into the classroom as needed.

*Our expectations were exceeded and we couldn't have asked for a more wonderful preschool experience for our son. Thank you for providing an exceptional education.*

–PJCC Preschool Parent



## **K'TON TON (LITTLE PEOPLE):** **AGE 2 BY SEPTEMBER 1**

The youngest children in our preschool enjoy a safe, nurturing playscape where they explore their introduction to the school environment. Our experienced teachers offer support and encouragement, and guide each child's exploration and growth. Singing songs together, baking cakes in the play kitchen, outdoor exploration, and story time are a few of the activities children engage in each day. Adult to child ratio is 1:7.



**KESHET (RAINBOW):**  
**AGE 3** BY SEPTEMBER 1

Our classes for three-year-olds develop social, emotional, language, and literary skills while building motor and cognitive development through facilitated peer-to-peer engagement. Painting at an easel, exploring dramatic play with colorful costumes, building with wooden blocks, reading books together, and enjoying music are just some of the ways we learn and explore the world around us in this class. Adult to child ratio 1:9.



**KEE TOV (SOMETHING GOOD):**  
**AGE 4** BY SEPTEMBER 1

Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) and  
Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Our Kee Tov program prepares children for a successful transition to an academic program and supports their developing social and emotional skills. Children gain confidence and competency in navigating social situations and develop independence that sets them up for success in Kindergarten. This program enjoys bi-monthly swimming lessons to further support gross motor development. Adult to child ratio 1:10.



# DEVELOPMENT & DISCOVERY

## SHEVA

*Sheva* is the framework of early childhood education developed by the JCC Association of North America. Rooted deeply in Jewish tradition and in the latest research on child development, *Sheva* (Hebrew for “seven”) incorporates seven core elements. These include viewing:

1. Children as Constructivist Learners
2. Early Childhood Directors as Visionaries
3. Early Childhood Educators as Professionals
4. Families as Engaged Partners
5. Classroom Environments as Inspiration for Inquiry
6. Discover CATCH as *Sh'mirat HaGuf* (taking care of our bodies)
7. Israel as the Story of the Jewish People

The *Sheva* framework guides our practice as a preschool and engages children and adults as lifelong learners. Through this unique framework, our preschool is a true “learning community” where teachers, parents, and students play, learn, and explore together.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## MUSIC

Children play percussion instruments, sing, and dance during bi-weekly classes with our music specialist. They learn all about rhythm, and most importantly, to celebrate their own voices.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Climbing through obstacle courses, tumbling, and practicing yoga poses — our weekly physical education program fosters gross motor development and balance through a wide array of games and activities, including the Discover *CATCH* (Coordinated Approach to Childhood Health) curriculum. Through a Jewish lens, this program nurtures a love of physical activity and encourages children to develop lifelong, healthy eating habits.

## GAN TZEDEK - JUSTICE GARDEN

Our preschoolers enjoy regular visits to our *Gan Tzedek* (Justice Garden), learning about *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World), while planting seeds, watering plants, and harvesting crops that are donated to a local homeless shelter. Lessons include how plants grow, caring for our garden, and the importance of helping others.

## FARMER'S MARKET

Each classroom visits the weekly Farmer's Market in the PJCC lobby. Children select fresh produce and incorporate them into classroom snacks and cooking projects. They also learn valuable math skills while handling money as well as expanding their palates by trying new foods.

## SWIMMING

All children in our Kee Tov program participate in instructional swim twice per month. Our highly trained and award-winning swim staff work closely with the children to help them build confidence and feel comfortable in the pool. Swimming also provides an opportunity for children to practice important self-help skills such as dressing and managing their own belongings in preparation for Kindergarten.

## ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Weekly special-interest classes are available for children ages three to five. Classes are offered in three sessions during the school year and are a wonderful addition to our program. Class topics include soccer, science, cooking, dance, and art. Enrichment classes are not included in monthly tuition.



# EXCEPTIONAL STAFF MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our warm and caring staff is an experienced group of dedicated, early-childhood professionals who combine a strong educational background with a love for and appreciation of young children. Together we create a community of lifelong learners, with ongoing professional development training based on the most current research and philosophies for early learning.

## **SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The PJCC Preschool is proud to engage a part-time developmental consultant who supports teachers to create an inclusive environment for all types of learners. Our consultant is also a link for parents to source services that best support their family.



*My son's teachers are loving and wonderful. We can see the huge strides in our son's verbal and social skills since he started the program.*

–PJCC Preschool Parent



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

Creating a warm and caring community — where each child thrives and reaches their full potential — is our primary endeavor. Our doors are open wide to all; we invite you to join our welcoming community of families. There are opportunities for engagement throughout the year to help deepen your connection to other families and make new friends.

## ***KESHER (CONNECTION)***

Our Kesher Committee consists of dedicated parents and family members who support our school. Kesher leaders help our staff organize school-wide play dates and special holiday events, and support Room Parents in each classroom. All parents are invited to be a part of Kesher.





*As an educator myself, I know a strong program when I see one and the PJCC ECE is hands down the BEST program I have ever seen! We are very happy here!*

–PJCC Preschool Parent

### **YAD B'YAD (HAND IN HAND)**

Over the course of the year, some families may need an extra helping hand. Each classroom has a designated *Yad B'Yad* coordinator who ensures that our community is there to lend support when needed for something joyous, such as the birth of a new child or move to a new home, or something unexpected. *Yad B'Yad* coordinators work individually with each family to organize meals, play dates, carpool or whatever else the family may need. Supporting each other through life's milestones is wonderful modeling for our children of what it means to be part of a loving community.

### **RUACH (SPIRIT)**

As a community, we are stronger together. Partnering with our families enhances our program, and encourages friendship and connections. We invite families to be a part of their child's school experience by donating 10 volunteer hours in the classroom, the library, or at community events throughout the school year. There are many ways to be involved that celebrate your unique interests and talents. Families who are unable to volunteer have the option to contribute financially to support the school.

# CORE DAY SAMPLE SCHEDULE

**(9:00 AM – 1:00 PM)**

Welcome and Classroom Exploration

Snack Time

Outdoor Play

Classroom Project

Circle Time

Lunch

Classroom Exploration

Closing Circle

## **EXTENDED HOURS: AGES 2 – 5**

Full-time care is available from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.


### **MORNING CARE (7:30 am – 9:00 am)**

Children enjoy a light nutritious breakfast together before settling in to morning activities such as block play, sensory activities, art exploration, and outdoor play time.

### **STAY AND PLAY (1:00 pm – 6:00 pm)**

Children in our K'ton ton program enjoy a two-hour nap period each afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Children in Keshet and Kee Tov may select a nap or a one-hour quiet rest period followed by structured indoor and outdoor activities that mirror the core day.





*From physical education to music to learning Jewish culture, the program provides an important and diverse education.*

–PJCC Preschool Parent

The PJCC Preschool offers a play-based, developmental early learning environment and is licensed by the State of California through Community Care Licensing (License #414000829) to offer full and part-time preschool services to young children ages two to five years.

To learn more about the PJCC Preschool, adults are invited to tour the award-winning Early Childhood Education Center. Learn about our exciting curriculum for children in this 60-minute visit. Tours are held monthly. Please call 650.378.2670 to make a reservation.



PENINSULA  
JEWISH  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER

800 FOSTER CITY BLVD. • FOSTER CITY, CA 94404 • 650.212.PJCC (7522)

*A beneficiary agency of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.*



**PJCC.ORG/PRESCHOOL**