The J’s Early Learning Center (ELC) gives you and your children the best academic and social experience. We understand the importance of preparing children for their academic future, but we take it one step further and prepare children to be future leaders in their communities. We encourage children to ask questions, seek answers and ask more questions.

• **Academics:** ELC follows Massachusetts State Frameworks and Guidelines. This document is a scaffolding of skills from preschool through high school. We expand on this base line and build a curriculum rich in literacy, mathematics and discovery. Each age level receives a developmentally appropriate curriculum to stimulate growth.

• **Social Justice:** ELC takes the word *Community* to heart. We seek to be kind, generous, and compassionate by taking care of each other and giving back to the community we all hold dear.

• **How We Learn:** Children learn best by being fully engaged in their learning. We encourage children and teachers to ask “Why?”. We listen to what the children know and fill in the gaps of knowledge by providing them with hands on opportunities to explore their environment, play with letters and sounds, build constructions (and knock them down), and count and measure their surroundings.

• **Living and Learning under a Jewish Umbrella:** At the ELC, we follow the Jewish values of taking care of the Earth and each other. We celebrate the Jewish holidays with all people in mind. Each holiday has a human value that we explain to the children so that we can all be better people and inhabitants of this great big world. Together with the children we welcome in Shabbat (Sabbath) and look forward to a day of rest and family. Here we celebrate by lighting Shabbat Candles, drinking in the sweetness of wine (apple juice) and eating special bread called Challah. The children learn blessings in both Hebrew and English thanking God for helping us in our daily lives and giving us a special day of rest.
We believe your child learns best when given the chance to be:

- Actively involved: in the classroom, children obtain hands-on learning opportunities that include built-in successes and challenges.
- Socially engaged: your child will be empowered as he learns to work with and socialize with peers.
- Inquisitive and explorative: explore a balance of child initiated and teacher directed activities, both in large and small groups as well as indoor and outdoor.

Full Day / Half Day Options
At the J’s Early Learning Center, you can choose half day or full day options.

We accept children ages 6 weeks through 5 years.

Choose 5 days, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, or Tuesday/Thursday.

Ages 6 weeks - 5 years
We keep growing - just like your children! We now have 10 classrooms for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. When a child has the opportunity to engage in communication with living teachers, explore manipulatives, and experience a rich literacy based curriculum, he or she will grow to master each academic and social developmental milestone.

Who We Are
More than 35 full time teachers and administrators who all have specialized training in early childhood education. We are dedicated to:

- Providing excellent academic curriculum
- Respecting and valuing family diversity
- Providing a compassionate and nurturing environment
- Continuing professional development through professional conferences and in-service training

Our Facility
The Early Learning Center is only one component of the Springfield JCC.

- With access to a full fitness facility (J’s Health & Wellness Center) including a gym, swimming pool, and family changing rooms, your child will benefit from physical education as well as academics.
- An indoor playscape and three outdoor playgrounds ensure daily energy-releasing activities
- Enrichment programs include dance, sports and swim.

Did you Know?
3 and 4-year-olds participate in swim enrichment classes with the J’s Director of the Early Learning Center, Deb Cohen.