

HJC Early Childhood Center

Huntington Jewish Center's Early Childhood Programs recognize that intellectual, social, emotional and physical developments are intricately interwoven. We believe in integrating all areas of learning so as to address the whole child. Our toddlers and preschoolers will thrive on exploration, creativity, spontaneity and lots of love. The Early Childhood Center has been a cornerstone of the community for decades.

Our curriculum recognizes that play is the best tool for learning and allows flexibility to follow the interests and needs of your child. A multitude of activities are provided through music and creative movement, art, science, math, and literacy, with the intent of providing the physical, emotional and cognitive foundation needed to thrive in school and in life.

Our teachers are committed and responsive to each child's needs. We strive to give our children a love of learning and discovery, and a sense of trust and worthiness that they will take with them into their future experiences.

Graduates of our early childhood program continue to grow and mature with self-confidence, excellent learning and socialization skills, and enhanced self-esteem.

Early Childhood Program

The Huntington Jewish Center Early Childhood Center's program focus is on developing the whole child through exploration, creativity, collaboration, and lots of love. We use a multitude of activities including music, science, art, and large and small motor skill activities to enable your child to grow. We strive to give our children a love of learning and discovery and a sense of trust and worthiness that they will take with them into their future experiences. The pre-school program consists of the following key areas of focus:

Literacy and Reading Readiness: Through matching games, puzzles, books, stories, and Foundations, we will provide opportunities to develop language skills and reading readiness

Mathematical Readiness: A mathematical understanding will be developed through counting, sorting, and classifying activities. Experiences will be provided for your child to measure, compare sizes, weigh items, and add and subtract.

Science: The children will be discovering how things work through experimentation. Floating, sinking, melting, freezing, weights and balances, and chemical reactions are just a few of the scientific concepts that will be explored.

Music: Many hours of the pre-school will be spent singing, dancing, listening to music and experimenting with a wide variety of instruments.

Physical Development: Large and small muscles will be exercised through crayons, paints, Play-Doh, sand, and other manipulative equipment. Activities such as jumping, running, climbing, lifting, balancing and building will also be provided for further development of large muscle coordination in our state of the art gym and playgrounds.

Social Skills: An integral part of early childhood relates to Socialization. The teachers facilitate in helping children to negotiate the many skills they need to be part of a group. Children are guided how to make friends and how to solve social issues, and will work on skills such as cooperation and conflict resolution. They will learn to be a part of a classroom community.

Social Emotional Development: Our program concentrates on a child's ability to understand the feelings of others. We work with children to help them understand their own emotions and how to regulate their behavior. Feelings of trust, confidence, pride, friendship, affection, and humor are all part of a child's social emotional development.

Parent & Me Program

Our Parent and Me class is 1 hour of creativity and fun for your child 12 –24 months of age. The classes include free play, movement, music, arts and crafts, and story time.

The teachers guide the children and parents through age appropriate class routine that emphasizes choice, community and creativity.

The Parent and Me “class” is a wonderful way for you and your child to socialize with other families.

Classes are typically held on Tuesdays 10:00am-11:00am

Summer Adventure Program

Our Summer Adventure is a wonderful program for your little ones ages 18 months to 2nd grade. Our program is filled with fun activities all day long from 9:30 – 1:30pm. We will have theme days, special events, water play, dance, sports activities, and so much more. Every day in the summer will be an adventure.

Before and after care is also available.

Enrichment Programs

As a compliment to the dynamic work the children do every day in the classroom, the Huntington Jewish Center's Early Childhood Center is pleased to provide afterschool enrichment programs for our 3- and 4-year-old children. On a semester basis, children can enroll in one or more one-hour weekly activities that build on or extend the classroom experience. Our enrichment curriculum provides a unique opportunity to explore an area of interest or develop a new one. Our offerings are developed with purpose and changed as needed. Current options include:

Art: Students explore art materials through open ended, child-led process art. Using paint brushes, sponges, squeegees and other materials; every child gets to experiment different art styles and techniques. Process art prioritizes the process of creating over the finished product and builds on children's critical thinking, problem solving and creativity in a messy and fun way. a

Science: Students participate in intriguing demonstrations, hands-on experiments, and discussions of real-world phenomena to make science exciting. Children will engage with science through interactive activities that grow their understanding of how the world works.

STEAM: The STEAM program includes activities that combine science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Through discovery-based learning, students will foster creative problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.

Rhythm and Movement: Students practice gross motor skills and rhythm by engaging big body movements, dancing games and instrument exploration. Children build skills such as self regulation, listening and team work by following the directions in songs and games.

Super Soccer Stars: Soccer skills are introduced in a fun, non-competitive, and educational environment. Students will build self-confidence and develop teamwork skills while working on motor skills, eye-foot coordination, and fitness.