

# JDN Early Childhood Center

Bellefaire JCB's JDN Early Childhood Center offers quality, full-day, year-round programming for children six weeks to five years old. At JDN we foster academic readiness, confidence, self-control, creativity and a love of learning while our team of educators and staff attend to the social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of young children. Our small classes with low child-to-teacher ratios allow for individualized attention and the opportunity for children to feel secure and comfortable. Our diverse population helps in the development of self-awareness, respect and acceptance of other people and cultures.

The programming at JDN is enhanced with enrichment classes including music, art and natural science. Literacy, science concepts, art, fundamental math, music and physical development are all interwoven throughout the curriculum. Our goals are to promote intellectual curiosity, foster a love of learning and create an atmosphere in which children feel that their teachers respect and validate their interests. The children gain critical kindergarten readiness skills through social play, computers and a variety of other activities in an atmosphere where each individual child is challenged and relationships are the focus.

## Jewish Programming

Although JDN is a Jewish school, it is not a religious school. Serving a diverse population, we leave religious instruction to parents and instead teach about Jewish holidays, traditions and values. To show respect and appreciation for all cultures in our school population, we encourage children to share their families' special traditions. Both Jewish and national holidays are discussed in terms of reflecting the events and values they represent.

We present Jewish traditions in song, stories and art projects. Discussions that deal with justice, forgiveness, caring, freedom, love and sharing are important basics of Jewish programming at the early childhood level. Parents are provided with hand-outs that explain holiday activities, such as the Succot celebration of the harvest or classroom model Seders during Passover. Each Friday children celebrate the Jewish Sabbath by reciting the Hebrew blessings, lighting the candles and enjoying grape juice and delicious Challah, a traditional egg bread.

## Our Staff

JDN teachers hold associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees in Early Childhood Education or a related field, and most of our teachers have been at JDN for many years. We have staff who speak Russian and Spanish for children who speak English as a second language. Our small classroom ratios – 10:1 Preschool Program, 7:1 Toddler Program and 5:1 Infant Program – ensure that children and teachers have meaningful, ongoing interactions. A young child's need for security and belonging is of paramount importance to us. Consistency and trust build strong relationships and we are fortunate to have a very qualified, dedicated and stable team.

## *The Faces of JDN*



# Explore. Grow. Imagine. Learn.

## The Curriculum

Our teachers prepare lesson plans so that parents always have a sense of what their children are doing at school. Through the mastery-based curriculum, children are encouraged to experiment and think about the best way to accomplish a task. This approach is woven into all aspects of the JDN day and applies to the youngest child who learns how to be a part of a group and tolerate frustration as well as the oldest as he or she learns science or math concepts and to write. Our ultimate goal is for children to feel joy in learning and pride in their efforts and accomplishments.

We focus on the following fundamental skills and concepts for all children at JDN.

- *Social Concepts* - Fosters the acceptance of differences and the importance of cooperation, sharing and communication. We introduce the technique of negotiation and need for rules.
- *Pre-math Concepts* - Focuses on seriation, classification, sequencing and counting with one-to-one correspondence and numeral recognition.
- *Reading Concepts* - Develops language and literacy through daily book reading and activities that spark interest in reading. Preschoolers work on letter recognition and classification, sound recognition, time ordering of a story, and listening and comprehension skills.
- *Science Concepts* - Introduces life cycles of plants, animals, birds, fish and insects. With the assistance of our Cleveland Metroparks naturalist, lessons include migration, feeding habits, hibernation and changes in nature.
- *Thinking and Problem-solving* - Sparks an interest in learning and the development of a healthy curiosity. Children learn to listen attentively, follow directions, think through a problem to find a solution and stay on task through to completion.
- *Fine Motor and Large Muscle Skills* - Develops eye-hand coordination and dexterity working with small manipulative toys, scissors and painting/writing tools. The large indoor activity room and spacious, park-like playground help develop large muscle coordination.

## Staying Connected

Our guiding principle is a strong focus on your child's relationships. We value and support the unique bond he or she has with you. Therefore, we take special care to provide comforts that support and enhance connections to home. Telephones in the classrooms allow children and parents to connect during the day to share successes and lend support when needed. Parents are encouraged to communicate important home information so that teachers can appropriately respond to behaviors and concerns that may arise at school. JDN teachers are always available for parents to discuss needs, successes or concerns. We hold fall and spring conferences where Early Childhood Progress Reports are reviewed.



  
**Bellefaire JCB**

*for excellence... for wellness... for children*

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*We are a 5-star  
Program!*



*Step Up To Quality is a voluntary, five-star quality rating system created by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Bureau of Child Care and Development to improve the quality of early care and education programs in Ohio.*