



# Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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## WELCOME

Dear MJCCA Preschool Families,  
Welcome to the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta Preschools. It is our commitment to provide your child with a wonderful, enriching and nurturing early childhood experience. We always welcome your feedback and look forward to our growing relationship with you.

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## GENERAL STATEMENT

This manual summarizes general policies and procedures of the Marcus Jewish Community Center Preschools. If there are any questions, please contact us for clarification. The school and camp programs administered by the Preschools serve children from six weeks through five years of age.

## MISSION

The MJCCA Early Childhood Services offers an exemplary preschool program that nurtures children's unique strengths, fosters exploration, and develops their positive Jewish identities. Our innovative curriculum is challenging and integrates a strong Judaic content. All learning takes place in a warm and developmentally appropriate setting facilitated by highly qualified teachers who work closely with each child and their family. Children complete our program prepared to excel in any future educational setting.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Marcus JCC of Atlanta preschool curriculum encourages children to be actively involved in the learning process. Balancing child-initiated/teacher-initiated, active/quiet, and indoor/outdoor activities, the curriculum aims to prepare children for life's experiences by helping them to develop social relations through peer interaction; fostering a positive self-image and a sense of personal achievement; encouraging opportunities for independence and success; encouraging creative expression and appreciation for the arts; and promoting sound health, safety, and nutritional practices. To promote each child's Jewish identity and sense of Jewish values, the program offers experiential activities in Jewish customs and rituals and a warm Jewish environment. Students are encouraged to develop respect for cultural diversity within and outside of Judaism, and are provided opportunities for language and literacy in both English and Hebrew. We have two focuses in our curriculum, the secular learning benchmarks and Judaic benchmarks.

**The secular curriculum** is based on standards set in four traditional areas of child development that together comprise the foundation for a total learning environment. These four traditional areas are: Cognition, Literacy, Movement, and Social Relations. The standards are established as a continuum of skills and behaviors that children should achieve as they progress from one year to the next; however, the standards are flexible, recognizing that every child develops at an individual rate.

**The Judaic Curriculum** is based on standards set in eight areas of Jewish learning that together comprise the foundation to enable our “graduates” to leave with basics in Judaics as well as an awareness and pride in their own identities as little Jewish people. The eight Judaic areas are: Values, Holidays, Shabbat, Jewish Text, God, Hebrew, Israel, and Ritual.

The **Summer Camp** activities include modified versions of the above along with swimming with the MJCCA Aquatics staff and water play, outdoor activities and nature walks. A two-week Creative Arts Camp is offered at the end of the summer.

### **LICENSURES AND ACCREDITATIONS**

MJCCA Preschools adheres to the regulations of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and follows the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Full Day programs are licensed by the State of Georgia through Bright from the Start; Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. All MJCCA Early Childhood school programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We strictly adhere to NAEYC ratios and we reserve the right to adjust the ratios in accordance with NAEYC guidelines as children get older during the year. MJCCA Early Childhood camp programs use NAEYC guidelines in planning, with full day camp programs being licensed by the State of Georgia through Bright from the Start, but are not NAEYC accredited due to the influx of children who join our programs for camp during the summer months only.

### **HOURS**

Full Day Programs run from 7am - 6pm

Half Day Programs run from 9:30am - 1:30pm

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION - FOR 2010/2011

### Terms of Registration

1. Priority enrollment is accepted from currently enrolled families between December and January yearly.
2. Open Enrollment begins every year mid-January.
3. Changes in Camp enrollment could result in losing fall placement status if enrolled for school.
4. Each school location reserves the right to consolidate or cancel a class should registration minimums not be met.

### Eligibility for Enrollment:

1. Children eligible for enrollment in MJCCA Preschools must be at least 6 weeks of age for full day and 1 year old by September 1<sup>st</sup> for half day.
2. Families enrolling at The Weinstein School must be members of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. Membership must be maintained current throughout the school year. Families enrolling at the MJCCA Sunshine School at Temple Kol Emeth are not required to be members of the MJCCA, although there are member rates for JCC and/or TKE members. For information on how to become a member of the MJCCA, please contact the membership department at 678-812-4000.
3. The MJCCA preschools and membership are open to anyone in the community who wants to participate regardless of race, religion, ability, or national origin.

### Registration:

1. Each application must be accompanied by the following:
  - a. FOR THOSE ATTENDING CAMP ONLY- A non-refundable \$50 Registration and Transaction Fee along with a \$100 deposit per child is required. The deposit will be applied towards payment for the last session your child originally registered for camp.
  - b. FOR CAMP & SCHOOL (12 mo. families): A non-refundable \$400 deposit per child is required. This will be applied towards the final 12 mo. payment in March 2011.
  - c. FOR SCHOOL ONLY: A non-refundable \$300 deposit per child is required. This will be applied towards final school payment in March 2011.
2. All enrollments are subject to space availability. You will be notified if you have selected a program in which capacity has been reached.
3. A waiting list for each camp / school program will be established. Families on the waitlist will be notified of waitlist policies and if/when space becomes available.
  - a. In the event of a wait-list, priority will be given to siblings of our current preschool families
4. Group Mate Requests are accepted for camp only. All group mate requests should be made on the enrollment form. Group mate requests must be reciprocal. All attempts will be made to honor your child's group mate request, if requested by May 1st; however, no guarantees will be made. All requests are subject to availability in requested groups and classrooms.
5. For Camps: Based on summer enrollment numbers, sometimes children may be placed in combination groups.
6. By confirmation of registration, the MJCCA has reserved space for your child in the Preschool and/or Camp. Confirmation of registration will be communicated by the beginning of April.

### Payments/Fees:

1. Payment agreement form must be filled out completely and submitted upon enrollment.
2. Deposits may be made in the form of: Cash, check, Visa/MC/AMEX, or by debit card drafts. (Make checks payable to the MJCCA).
3. The non-refundable \$100 camp deposit per child will be applied towards payment for the last month/session your child originally registered for camp. The non-refundable \$300 school deposit, or \$400 combined deposit per child, will be applied towards payment for the final month of March 2011.
4. CAMP ONLY registrations must be accompanied by a non-refundable Registration & Transaction fee of \$50 per child (not to exceed \$100 per family).
5. Camp Only Tuition: Payable April & May 2010.
6. School Only Tuition: Payable June 2010 - March 2011.
7. Camp & School (12 mo. families) Tuition: Payable April 2010 - March 2011
8. There is a one time \$38 handling fee required by FACTS, the company that handles all automatic school tuition payments. This is for all families except CAMP ONLY families

### Making Changes after Enrollment:

1. 30 days WRITTEN notice is required for withdrawing a child from any full-day, half-day or camp program. If written notice is not given, a month's tuition will be forfeited.
2. For any and all changes, addition and drops: All changes must be made in writing, signed and dated by the parent or guardian. Emails are sufficient.
3. Since we base all our staffing and equipment planning on enrollment, please note the following fees associated with making changes. A fee of \$50 will be charged for each change that is requested.

### Refund/Cancellation Policy:

1. In accepting an application form, MJCCA preschools reserve a place for the child. If, for any reason, the enrollment is cancelled, the school / camp must be advised in writing via fax, mail, or email.
2. \$50 Registration and Transaction fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Deposits are non-refundable. Families who withdraw prior to the end of the school year or prior to the end of camp (or last session originally registered for), will forfeit their deposits and these deposits will NOT be applied toward tuition.
4. After written notice of withdrawal is handed in, any tuition already paid beyond the withdrawal date with a 30 day notice will be refunded. If 30 days notice is not given, then one month's tuition is forfeited and will not be refunded and not be applied toward tuition.
5. No credit or refund will be given in the following cases:
  - a. In the event that a child is withdrawn from school or camp for disciplinary or adjustment purposes.
  - b. Absences or withdrawals during school year or camp sessions.
  - c. Substitution of activities resulting from, but not limited to, inclement weather, staff absences, etc.

### Upon Acceptance the following forms and others will be required:

Medical Form; Immunization records (GA 3231), Master Profile, Family History (New families only at Weinstein), Carpool Form (Half-Day) and Carpool & Parking Guidelines.

## General Information:

1. Full Day Program
  - a. Children may be enrolled in the program from 6 weeks to four years of age.
  - b. Children will be placed in age appropriate groups as determined by the school director. The age cut off is September 1.
  - c. Mixed groupings are sometimes necessary due to enrollment. In the event of mixed grouping there will be no more than a one year age range between the oldest and youngest children in the group.
  - d. Combination groupings between full day and half day are also sometimes necessary in the threes and fours. In these situations there may be some children in your child's room who leave at 1:30. Careful attention is paid to ensure that children be grouped with friends, that combinations as such are created with a balance of half and full day children, and that we are attentive to mixing genders.
  
2. Half Day Program
  - a. Children may be enrolled in the program at age one year to four years of age by September 1, 2010.
  - b. Children will be placed in age appropriate groups as determined by the school director.
  - c. Combination groupings between full day and half day are also sometimes necessary in the threes and fours. Be assured that your child will not be missing any new information in the afternoons, as the instructional time when new information is shared takes place during the core hours of 9:30-1:30. Careful attention is paid to ensure that children be grouped with friends, that combinations as such are created with a balance of half and full day children, and that we are attentive to mixing genders.
  
2. Camp Program
  - a. Camps are run at each of our locations:
    - i. Camp Marie Benator at Zaban Park
    - ii. Camp Billi Marcus at Shirley Blumenthal Park
  - b. Combination groupings between full day and half day are also sometimes necessary in the threes and fours. Be assured that half day children will not be missing any new information in the afternoons, as the instructional time when new information is shared takes place during the core hours of 9:30-1:30. Careful attention is paid to ensure that children be grouped with friends, that combinations as such are created with a balance of half and full day children, and that we are attentive to mixing genders.
  - c. In half day camp, some sessions have a higher enrollment than others. We make the greatest effort possible to ensure consistency however there is the possibility that groups may change over the course of the sessions.

## School Forms:

1. Keeping our children's files current is critical both for the safety of the children and by state regulation. The following forms must be completed by Full Day and Half Day families, EACH YEAR - in May, prior to the child beginning in school or camp at the MJCCA.
  - a. MJCCA Master Profile
  - b. MJCCA History Form (new families only at Weinstein)
  - c. MJCCA Health Form (to be completed by child's doctor) is due within 30 days of enrollment.
  - d. Current Georgia Certificate on Immunization #3231 (obtained at child's doctor's office) is due within 30 days of enrollment.
  - e. MJCCA Carpool and Parking Information Guidelines
  - f. MJCCA Payment Arrangement Form or FACTS payment plan (Submitted with registration)

- g. \*If applicable - Court Documentation of divorce agreement that outlines custody and visitation
- h. \*If applicable - Allergy Form with picture of child

2. Any changes in personal information, health information or release information must be submitted in writing to the office.

#### **Tuition:**

1. The MJCCA ECS Finance Committee annually sets tuition for all MJCCA Preschool Programs.
2. FOR CAMP ONLY or SCHOOL & CAMP: All payment arrangements must be made upon registration with the first payment being taken in April 2010.
3. FOR SCHOOL ONLY: All payment arrangements must be made upon registration with the first payment being taken in June 2010.
4. Tuition is payable by check, Visa/MC/AMEX/Discover (on FACTS), or by bank drafts. (Make checks payable to the MJCCA).
5. There is a \$30 charge for each returned check and credit card decline. Cash or money orders will be accepted as a replacement form of payment. Two returned checks or credit card declines will result in the account being placed in a "Cash Only" status.
6. No refunds are given for inclement weather days, sick days or vacation days unless otherwise stated.

#### **FINANCIAL AID**

The Marcus JCC is proud to be able to offer financial assistance to families who may require it. The scholarship process ensures anonymity. FACTS is the outside company that calculates financial assistance for our families. Forms and information for applying may be obtained from the School office but be assured that all applications go directly to FACTS.

1. Families applying for financial assistance should submit confidential scholarship package as soon as possible directly to FACTS.
2. A non-refundable \$25 registration fee must accompany each application.
3. Applications will be processed and reviewed with confidentiality.

#### **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

MJCCA Preschools are committed to reducing paper use and to using the internet as much as possible for a communication tool and instructional tool with the children. All communications will be provided electronically. Families are responsible to provide the school with current email addresses and follow procedures for getting information. We utilize Microsteps, a web based communication program during the school year at all locations. This requires parents to register in order to access important information about their child's class and general school information. Families are expected to check for information regularly. Camp communication varies by school, so it is important to read the initial director email at the start of camp. Each director electronically sends Friday letters home. Each classroom teacher will share weekly lesson plans and classroom information electronically as well.

#### **MJCCA PRESCHOOL STAFF**

All Early Childhood Services and Programs are overseen by The Assistant Director of the MJCCA. Each school is headed by a director, who is responsible for overall operation of the program. If warranted an associate director and/or assistant directors may share in the administration of the school. Depending upon the school location there may be additional office staff who share in the administration of the program as well.

The MJCCA Preschool teaching staff is comprised of nurturing and caring individuals who have met education and training requirements for the position held. The directors and staff are required to participate in continuing education programs and in-service training sessions through our Benator Early Childhood Training Institute. A minimum of 18-22 hours of approved training is required for each staff member yearly. Ten of these hours must be state approved, the remaining twelve are determined jointly between the staff member and their supervisor.

MJCCA Preschool Camp staff is comprised of adults, college students and teenagers. All swim instructors are CPR certified and trained by the aquatic staff.

### **EVALUATIONS**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are offered twice a year to school families.

Teachers and families are encouraged to communicate whenever they feel a child's experience warrants discussion.

### **DISCIPLINE**

MJCCA Preschool Staff believe in consistent, understandable limits and respond to inappropriate behavior with insight, sensitivity and skill. Staff establish predictable limits to help children understand the consequences of their actions. Teachers act as role models and give ample praise for appropriate behavior.

Positive techniques of guidance including redirection, anticipation and elimination of potential problems, positive reinforcement and encouragement are used rather than competition, comparison or criticism. Time out is only used as a last resort.

Staff work to prevent behavior problems by arranging the classrooms so that children can work in small groups and have a choice of activities.

Teachers use a pleasant voice level and move to the children rather than shout across the room to be most effective. Teachers do not scream or use sarcasm. Disciplinary actions used to correct a child's behavior and guidance techniques are never detrimental to the physical or mental health of each child. Food or special activities are never withheld as a punishment. The administrators are always available for advice and guidance, but teachers first must try to handle problems in the room. When there are recurring discipline issues the director and teacher may request a meeting with the parents to work together on a plan to ensure student success.

### **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc. and Early Childhood Services have been involved in a joint program since 1983 to provide services to the preschool programs. A social worker is available to children and their families through referral, either by the school director or teacher, or by families' request. All requests must be made through the school director. On-site consultation is provided free of charge to families being served by the Early Childhood Services school programs. Services provided by the social worker include consultation, crisis intervention, assessment, counseling, information and referral.

### **THE ADAPTIVE LEARNING CENTER**

The Adaptive Learning Center is therapy and education for infants and young children who are at risk for developmental disabilities. The ALC's special education professionals work with the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta's professional early childhood staff. The ALC staff act as facilitators and together they help the children with special needs to actively participate in an inclusive classroom. ALC staff is also available for consultation and assessment.

### ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Our ultimate goal is the success of every child in each classroom. The MJCCA Preschools recognize that all children develop differently and have different learning needs. We are committed to individualizing to maximize each child's success. There are occasions where individual children present with issues beyond the scope of what we are able to accommodate in a larger group setting. When an individual child's unique needs begin to impact their own ability to progress we discuss this with the family and may ask that evaluations and or additional supports be explored. We recognize as families work to get evaluations to determine how to best assist their child that it sometimes takes time. During the time in which parents are getting evaluations and establishing assorted needed therapies for their child the school reserves the right to require that parents provide an additional support for their child in the classroom. This will be done at their expense (\$8-10/hour) to ensure that evaluation process happens in a timely manner and that during this time their child is still able to participate appropriately and benefit from the learning that is taking place. It also ensures that there is minimal impact to the other students and classroom as a whole while this process occurs.

### SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Children at the MJCCA preschools are fortunate to experience our special Shabbat Sing programs. Through song, and dance children, teachers, staff and community members share in the excitement of welcoming Shabbat. The school also celebrates holidays (Jewish and Secular) through special classroom and school wide programs and activities.

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta preschools **do not celebrate Halloween, Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day because of their religious origins. Halloween costumes and Valentine's Day cards are not appropriate.**

### HEALTH

A medical form and CURRENT immunization form #3231 from your child's physician's office, including hepatitis B, signed by the child's physician and a medical emergency information form must be in the school's files before the child can be admitted each year. We require updated forms upon expiration.

Families are requested to sign an authorization giving the school administrators and/or staff permission to act In Loco Parentis for emergency treatment. It is Early Childhood Services' policy to contact the parents first. If the parents cannot be reached, the school will attempt to reach the emergency contact person listed on the emergency-medical authorization before staff assumes responsibility for medical care, other than First Aid. 911 will be used in emergencies. Children will be taken to the nearest hospital for emergency medical care. For minor injuries (little boo-boos), our staff will notify parents by telephone and complete an injury form to be signed by and given to parents by the end of the day.

For the protection of all children in any of the Early Childhood Services programs, children should not be sent to school when they are ill or exhibiting the symptoms of any illness. Children should be kept at home, or they will be sent home, if they develop any of the signs or symptoms of a contagious or other disease. The MJCCA reserves the right to send any child home if at least two (2) members of the Pre-school Staff, in their sole discretion, believe that the child may pose a risk to him/herself, other children, and/or MJCCA staff. Reasons for removal from the Pre-school include, but are not limited to, the following diseases and other contagions:

#### **Gastrointestinal Illnesses**

- Vomiting and /or Diarrhea
- Bacterial Gastroenteritis
- Giardia (a parasite)

## Hepatitis A

### **Meningitis**

### **Respiratory Illnesses**

Mumps  
Croup  
Influenza  
Pertusis (whooping cough)  
Tuberculosis (TB)  
Chicken Pox

Further, if a child behaves unusually, appears to be uncomfortable, or is inconsolable for an extended period of time, the parents may be requested to retrieve their child.

Bringing a child with any sign or symptom of illness to school may cause other children to get sick. If all families keep sick children at home, everybody's children will stay healthier. Children must be kept home until the following signs or symptoms disappear:

### **Fever**

100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher axillary. Children must be fever free without fever suppressants for a full school day before returning to school.

### **Diarrhea**

On the third abnormally loose stool in a day, a child will be sent home. Children must be diarrhea-free for twenty-four hours before returning to school OR present a physician's note stating cause of diarrhea and that the child is not contagious. If a child develops diarrhea at school, s/he will be sent home as diarrhea diseases spread very easily among young children.

### **Upper Respiratory**

Severe Coughing - Child makes high-pitched croupy or whooping sound after s/he coughs.  
Ear infections with fever - mucus/discharge from ears and/or nose with fever

### **Difficult or Rapid Breathing**

This is especially important in an infant under six months of age.

**Yellowish skin or eyes, gray or white stool and/or unusually dark, tea-colored urine**

### **Pinkeye / Conjunctivitis**

Tears, redness of eyelid lining, irritation followed by swelling and discharge of pus.

### **Unusual spots or rashes**

Children must be free of rashes and spots for twenty-four hours before returning to school OR present a physician's note stating cause of the rash and that the child is not contagious.

### **Sore throat or trouble swallowing**

**Infected patches of skin and fever (crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas of skin)**

Families should consider keeping their children home, under observation, if they exhibit any of the following:

- unusual behavior
- child is more cranky than usual
- less active than usual
- child cries more than usual
- child feels general discomfort or just seems unwell
- loss of appetite

When a child becomes ill at school, a sick-child report will be filled out by the teacher and must be signed by a member of the family or authorized adult before leaving school. Children will be admitted to school only when the above signs or symptoms disappear or a health care provider states in writing that the child is no longer contagious and can safely return.

For your convenience, medications will be administered to children only with daily signed authorization. All medications must be in the original container with the child's name on it and prescription number and given to the office. Expiration dates of medication must be current. The staff will administer no more than the dosage of medication printed on the label. Over the counter medication will be administered with the same parental authorization, as long as a standing order from a licensed health professional is provided with details on the specific circumstances and provides instruction on dosage. Any noticeable adverse reaction to the medication will be recorded and communicated to the family. Medicine may not be left beyond its course. The MJCCA is required to report any suspected case of notifiable communicable disease to the local county health department.

Bright from the Start does not permit Tylenol, Motrin, OTC cold medicines to be left on hand "in case". Sunscreen with UVB or UVA protection and SPF of 15 or higher must be provided with parental permission or sun protective clothing must be worn when in the sun. When public health authorities recommend the use of bug repellent, only those containing DEET may be provided, labeled and given to the office staff with written permission.

When a child is absent for four consecutive weeks because of illness (confirmed in writing by the child's physician), a refund of one-quarter of the month's tuition will be applied to the following month's tuition.

For the health and safety of the children and staff, the MJCCA preschools have a smoke-free environment.

#### **Diaper Changing Policy for Classrooms/Playground**

The diaper changing areas shall be sanitized after each use. Proper diaper changing procedures shall be followed as outlined:

- Staff use only commercially available disposable diapers or pull-ups unless the child has a medical reason that does not permit their use (the health provider documents the medical reason).
- For children who require cloth diapers, the diaper has an absorbent inner lining completely contained within an outer covering made of waterproof material that prevents the escape of any accidents. Both the diaper and the outer covering are changed as a unit.
- Cloth diapers and clothing that are soiled are immediately placed in a plastic bag (without rinsing or avoidable handling) and sent home that day for laundering. If the parent gives permission, soiled underwear will be discarded.
- Staff check children for signs that diapers or pull-ups are wet or dirty (a) at least every two hours when children are awake and (b) when children awaken from naps.
- Diapers are changed immediately when wet or soiled.
- Staff change children's diapers or soiled underwear in the designated changing areas and not elsewhere in the facility.
- Each changing area is located at least three feet from other areas that children use and is used exclusively for one designated group of children.
- At all times, caregivers have a hand on the child when the child is being changed on an elevated surface.
- Staff post and follow changing procedures

- Surfaces used for changing and on which changing materials are placed are not used for other purposes, including temporary placement of other objects, and especially not for any object involved with food or feeding.
- Containers that hold soiled diapers and diapering materials have a lid that opens and closes tightly by using a hands-free device (e.g., a step can). Containers are kept closed and are not accessible to children. Containers for soiled items shall be waterproof or equipped with a leak proof disposable liner, covered, easily cleaned and maintained so that the contents of the container are never accessible to the children.
- Staff with diaper changing responsibilities should not be simultaneously assigned to kitchen food preparation duties.

### **Toilet Training Policy**

We work with the families and children individually on toilet training when a child indicates readiness. A child must give some indication that he/she knows what is about to happen. If not, the child is not ready and should not be pushed.

If the child is really ready, he/she should wear underpants or pull ups if the parents prefer. Children should wear clothing that they are able to pull them down and up themselves.

Toilet training should begin at home first for a couple of days. At the very beginning at school, staff will take the children to the potty every 15 minutes. After several days to a week (depending on the child), take children every ½ hour and keep asking them. Don't worry about accidents, they're going to happen. Some children toilet train in a day, some children take much longer. Each child is an individual. During this time, please send in some extra sets of clothing to have on hand.

Any questions on these health policies will be decided by our Medical Committee.

### **FOOD**

MJCCA policy assures that all food served by the MJCCA complies with the rules of the Atlanta Kashrut Commission. As a Jewish institution, we adhere to the Jewish dietary laws and serve only kosher food at all on-site programs. Therefore, all snacks and meals provided by MJCCA programs are strictly kosher. Our Full Day children are provided two snacks and a kosher lunch each day. Our Half Day children are provided one snack each day and bring their own lunch. In addition, any food, snacks, etc. brought by families for sharing in their child's class must be checked in at the office for proper kosher labeling.

Lunches brought from home are not mandated by kosher dietary requirements however we do ask that you refrain from blatant disregard for the laws of kashrut. Please no meat and cheese sandwiches, shellfish, pork products, etc. **Children are not permitted to share any food brought from home. This assures children's dietary observances and the prevention of allergic reactions.**

For the health and safety of all of our children, the Marcus JCC Preschools are peanut-free and juice free with the exception of grape juice for Shabbat celebrations. Milk and/or water are served at meals and snacks. Children under the age of four may not be served hot dogs, whole grapes, popcorn, raw peas and hard pretzels, raw carrot chunks or meat that cannot be swallowed whole.

Families **MUST** notify their child's teacher or camp counselor, as well as the office, of any food allergies.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Birthdays may be celebrated at school. Families should discuss a date and time with their child's teacher or camp counselors. Only strictly kosher food may be brought for your child's celebration. Please check with the school office before purchasing and upon arrival to the school. **NO FOOD MAY BE PREPARED AT HOME.** For baking on the premises, the kitchen must be reserved and all Atlanta Kashrut commission policies must be observed. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING NON KOSHER TREATS AS THEY CANNOT BE SERVED. No Balloons please.**

Party favors are not permitted. In lieu of party favors, many families opt to donate a book, puzzle or toy to give to the classroom, so that the birthday child has the honor of giving, not just receiving, on his/her special day. Families who wish to donate an item to the classroom should discuss special needs or wishes with the classroom teacher.

If a birthday is to be celebrated away from school or camp and the entire class is invited, the school/camp will be happy to distribute invitations, or families may place them in the children's cubbies. If the entire class is not invited, we ask that the invitations be mailed.

The MJCCA ECS Committee recommends that no birthday parties be held on Shabbat (Saturday) or on Jewish holidays in keeping with Jewish traditions so that no child is precluded from attending due to his/her family's religious beliefs or observance.

### PETS

Pets and visiting animals are allowed on a limited basis. All classroom pets or visiting animals must appear to be in good health and must have documentation from a veterinarian or an animal shelter that the animals are fully immunized (if the animal should be protected). Reptiles are NOT allowed as classroom pets (because of the risk of salmonella). Teaching staff carefully supervise all interactions between children and animals and instruct children on safe behavior when in close proximity to animals. Staff ensures that children allergic to an animal are not exposed to that animal.

### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from school/camp is the responsibility of the families. All children in our Full Day programs must be escorted to and from the classroom by their families or by an adult authorized by the families.

Should a child be left beyond his/her preschool's operating hours, a late pick up fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged. If this becomes habitual, the fee will be increased and families will be asked to go on a monthly payment plan to collect these fees so that we do not need to utilize office staff time in the collection process.

All children must be in a car-seat or booster seat and have their seatbelts fastened before they leave the carpool line, as required by Georgia law.

### HOLIDAY/SCHOOL AND CAMP CLOSINGS

1. The Schools are closed on the following days (if occurring on a weekday):

- Labor Day
- Rosh Hashanah (two days)
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot (two days)
- Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah (two days)
- Thanksgiving (Thursday and Friday)
- Winter Vacation (to coincide with metro area school closings)
- MLK Day
- MJCCA Preschools Conference Day

Passover week (including the day of the first Seder)  
Memorial Day  
Shavuot (two days)  
Independence Day

Please consult the calendar for dates and additional information.

2. The schools offer Preschool Vacation Camp, at an additional cost, on many of the days that the school is closed: **Please note that a separate registration is needed.** Examples of these days include but are not limited to:

MLK Day  
President's Day  
Winter Vacation - End of December and beginning of January (check calendar for schedule)  
Passover - The intermediate days (check calendar for schedule)

3. The additional holiday schedule for the 2010-11 school year including the school offices is as follows:

Erev Rosh Hashanah - early release day  
Erev Yom Kippur - early release day  
Erev Passover, first Seder - no school, PVC offered until 3:00 pm

#### **SEVERE WEATHER CLOSINGS AND OTHER CONTINGENCIES**

For information on school/camp closings, delayed openings and program cancellations, families should tune into WSB-TV Channel 2 or WXIA-TV-11 Alive or hear it on the radio at WSB-Radio 750AM, B98.5FM, KISS 104.11FM, FOX 97, 95.5 /The BEAT, STAR 94/94.1 FM. Please call your school for further information.

In the event of severe weather during school/camp hours, children will proceed to the most inner hallway away from windows and doors. Each school will follow their branch's severe weather policy. This policy is posted at the main school/camp entrance as well as in each classroom.

In the event of a fire or any other dangers the children will be evacuated immediately to a safe distance away from the building. Fire evacuation routes are posted in the main school/camp entrance as well as in each classroom.

In case of any emergencies, please call the school office or main number for a message.

#### **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT (school only)**

Parents are permitted to have access to all areas of the center whenever their children are present.

Research teaches us that children are most successful when parents and school are partners. Helping children see consistency from the earliest of ages between home and school helps their behavior and builds positive self esteem for children to see their parents and teachers working together. To that end, it is our expectation that families who enroll in our program will commit to the following:

1) **Sign up to come twice a year to volunteer in your child's classroom.** This can be to be a mystery reader, cook for a holiday party, assist with a class display, cover in the classroom while the teachers attend training, or anything that interests you that brings you to the school. We are very flexible with scheduling volunteer time to ensure everyone participates.

2) **Invite a special person to attend VIP day for your child in January.** The date for VIP day is on our calendar annually and we ask that you get a grandparent or someone special to join for a morning of extending our classroom to our children's special people.

**3) Join the Parents' Group.** Each school has an active Parents' Group, which offers the opportunity for parental involvement in order to advance the educational aims of the school. The Parents' Group has a five-fold purpose:

- To offer social and cultural enrichment programs for the children
- To offer programming to the parents/families
- To raise funds for additional equipment and supplies, social and cultural events/performance for the children and educational enrichment to help meet the needs of the school
- To support the administrators/teachers in their professional roles
- To provide the opportunities for ongoing communications between administrators, teachers and parents.

Membership is open to any parent/guardian who has a child in any MJCCA Preschool program. A children's activity fee may be requested.

#### **OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED**

The MJCCA preschools rely heavily on a strong volunteer base. The Early Childhood Services Committee is currently chaired by Todd Gordon, who is a member of the MJCCA's Advisory Board. There are several positions on that committee that offer an opportunity for you to provide significant input in our preschool programs. In addition, there are several ECS sub-committees that work on specific activities and events that always need help too. Contact Stacey Shapiro or Raye Lynn Banks if you would like to be involved in either school program.

#### **ROOM PARENTS**

Room parents will serve as liaisons between the teachers, the Parents' Group, and the classroom parents. Their functions include such duties as:

- To coordinate helpers for special activities
- To creating phone tree for communication among families
- To support parents group activities
- To coordinate celebration/support for life cycle events for families
- To welcome new families to the classroom

Room coordinators for each classroom will be selected at the beginning of each school year.

It is suggested that each Parents' Group have on its board a Room Coordinator chair that will serve as liaison between the Parents' Group, the administration, and all room coordinators.

#### **MJCCA EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The MJCCA Early Childhood Services Committee (ECS) is one of several program committees of the Board of Directors of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. As with all MJCCA committees, the President appoints the chair of this committee. Its purpose is to advise and recommend policy for MJCCA Preschools in coordination with the Assistant Executive Director of the MJCCA, and the School Directors. The MJCCA ECS Committee is composed of families and other lay people as well as administrative staff.

The primary responsibilities of the MJCCA ECS Committee are:

- To make recommendations concerning the type and quality of programs offered by the MJCCA Preschools department
- To conduct needs assessments of the preschool age group and their families in order to plan new programs
- To evaluate the various programs for which the committee is responsible
- To make recommendations on the budget for specific MJCCA Preschools programs
- To suggest ways and means of financing and executing needed facility improvements

- To advise on the hiring of individuals for management and newly-created positions
- To oversee policies and procedures of Parents' Group
- To be responsive to the needs of MJCCA Preschool administrators and staff
- To be responsive to the needs of families with children in any Early Childhood Services program
- To represent the MJCCA ECS to the community.

### MARKETING

As we continue to grow, we are becoming very attractive to companies that want to market their goods & services. As the third largest JCC in the nation with 19,000 members, we are an active, diverse organization. Three million people per year come through our gates--- thousands and thousands more access our website at [www.atlantajcc.org](http://www.atlantajcc.org). Since our membership tends to represent a consumer category that is highly sought after, The J is an excellent avenue for sponsorships and advertising.

Please contact our Marketing Department for specific information on how your company can take advantage of this excellent direct marketing opportunity. This is the only means to advertise or reach our members.

We cannot accept any individual or company attempting to market or sell their goods or services to our members via directories, lists, rosters, etc. Any such direct contact is a violation and the parties in question will be pursued. We thank you for adhering to this important policy, and we encourage you to contact our marketing dept. for marketing and sales opportunities.

### POSTED NOTICES

The following are notices that are posted in the school/camp hallway:

- Childcare License
- Copy of the Bright from the Start Rules and Regulations
- Notice advising parents of their right to review our most recent Evaluation Report (Bright from the Start)
- Communicable Disease Chart
- Statement of Families Access
- Names of persons responsible for the administration of the preschool
- Current Weekly Menu for Full Day Program
- Emergency Plans for Severe Weather and Fire
- Statement requiring visitors to check it
- No Smoking Signs

### SECURITY

The MJCCA believes that the safety and security of its members is of the utmost importance. We hold fire drills on a monthly basis and practice evacuation procedures. In the event of an emergency, the message on the office phone will be changed, as soon as possible, to inform parents of the situation. Both of our locations have locked door systems and only identified persons are allowed to enter.

### PARKING

Each school facility has its own parking and carpool guidelines for the safety of all our children and members. **Please obtain this information from your school and be sure that you or anyone transporting your child adheres to these procedures.**

\*\*\*These MJCCA Preschool policies and procedures were last revised April, 2010. Should any changes to this document need to be updated; the MJCCA Preschools will inform the families and staff of the changes \*\*\*\*\*

