

Day Care Option at Charlotte Jewish Preschool

By Liz Wahls, parent

My family is delighted with the quality of care our children have received at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. As a family where both parents work outside the home, we need full-day child-care. And Charlotte Jewish Preschool has a great program that meets the needs of the whole child in a Jewish environment. CJP is located in Shalom Park and is jointly sponsored by Temple Israel and Temple Beth El.

Our children love CJP. They love their teachers and their teachers love them. They have learned a love of Judaism and a love for learning itself. The developmental approach used at CJP has been wonderful for our children. CJP has provided them with a wide range of experiences so they learn by doing, not by being lectured to. Last year, our oldest "graduated" from CJP and was very well prepared for kindergarten.

Our children arrive around 7 AM and are greeted warmly by their teacher. They eat their breakfast with their friends and then play in one of the centers in the classroom or the teacher involves

them in one of several activities she has set out. They participate in the 9 AM to 1 PM preschool program but then stay on for nap time and "after care" which is open



Carol Klein teaches her pre-K class to listen.

until 6 PM. In the afternoons, the children go out to the playground, have a snack, and do an art project, listen to a story or play in one of the classroom centers.

Compared with the two other daycare centers that we have used, CJP has better qualified teachers, a more developmentally appropriate curriculum, and a lower

teacher-student ratio. Also, there is a lot more opportunity for parents to get involved. While it is difficult as a "working parent" to find time to come into the classroom, my husband and I have truly found it worthwhile to do this. Our sons are so delighted to have one of us visit their classroom to read stories, to help out with a model Seder or to go on a field trip. And we get a much clearer picture of what their days are like, so we can talk with them more coherently about their experiences at school.

An added benefit of our association with CJP has been meeting other Jewish families in Charlotte with young children. We have made strong friendships here, as have our children. We did not find this sense of community at the other daycare centers.

For more information about preschool and full-day care, contact the CJP office at 944-6776. ☆



The Charlotte Jewish Preschool

A joint venture of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel

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CAJE Funding

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ly education programs represented another 12%. The remainder was in special education, professional development, and teacher recruitment. CAJE is enthusiastic about this year's response and hopes to double the number of applicants next year.

"This year's experiment in increasing CAJE Grants taught us an important lesson—namely, that more is more," says Alan Wiener, CAJE Chair. "Increasing the amount of money available per CAJE Grant to \$10,000 (nearly ten times the previous amount) resulted in more competition, more applications, more collaboration, more time and talent for creative educational programming, more concentration, and more interest within and outside CAJE in building concrete steps toward more creativity in Jewish education."

For 26 years, the organization has been providing a variety of services that include advocacy, curriculum, and conferences, as well as personal and professional development, to over 4000 members. CAJE, which sponsors the annual Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, has brought new respect to "alternative" education, ranging from new ideas within the traditional classroom setting to family education, adult learning, and informal education. The innovative approaches that their members have introduced are now very much the established way to teach. CAJE members span the religious and ideological spectrum and encompass a wide range of professional designations, including teachers, principals, rabbis, informal educators, communal professionals, and lay leaders. ☆

Point of View

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son realizes, one by one, that there is no choice. We must see each other, all of us, as partners in the quest for peace. For peace will come for us, for everyone: "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu, v'al kulam ... Salaam, Shalom, Peace." Ken Yehi Ratzon — May this be God's will. ☆



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