

Overview of JECEI'S Principles of Excellence

Foundational to JECEI are ideas and values about Jewish life expressed as the “JECEI Lenses.” The JECEI Lenses are ways of viewing and experiencing our lives and the world:

Masa – (Journey) – reflection, return and renewal

B'rit – (Covenant) – belonging and commitment

Tzelem Elohim – (Divine Image) – dignity and potential

K'dushah – (Holiness) – intentionality and presence

Hit'orerut – (Awakening) – amazement and gratitude

D'rash – (Interpretation) – inquiry, dialogue, and transmission

Tikkun Olam – (Repair of the World) – responsibility

The JECEI Lenses inform our vision and approach to Jewish early childhood education as we integrate them with constructivist, progressive, emotionally responsive, and Reggio inspired theories and practices in our work with children, families, and schools. This integration is expressed as JECEI's Principles of Excellence. These principles guide practice to help educators and lay leaders identify and construct excellent educational experiences in Jewish early childhood education.

JECEI'S PRINCIPLES OF EXCELLENCE, INDICATORS, AND EVIDENCE

The JECEI Principles of Excellence are intended to guide practice to help educators and lay leaders identify the type of educational experiences that reach high standards in Jewish early childhood education. These five principles focus on the following:

Principle #1 – Relationships

Principle #2 – Vision

Principle #3 – Learning Community

Principle #4 – Shared Leadership

Principle #5 - Environment

These principles of excellence are ideally present and experienced by all on a daily basis throughout a JECEI school's system.

The principles of excellence are broad and are concretized as 14 indicators which in turn are further depicted through evidence that can be observed and/or documented. The amplified principles are used by educators and parents to assess the Jewish Early Childhood Center and were used by JECEI during the accreditation process.

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