

# Code of Honor

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Parents and educators may look at young children's learning from different perspectives, but they share a common goal: making sure that children receive the best possible education. We believe one way to foster children's learning is through the joint efforts of families and JCC Chicago Early Childhood, so that parents and staff share responsibility together for creating a working relationship that will help children succeed. Your home and JCC Chicago Early Childhood represent the primary environments in which your child grows and develops, and quality early childhood education programs value a strong connection between families and JCC Chicago educators.

We have found that the foundation for good parent-teacher relationships is frequent and open communication, mutual respect, honesty, and a willingness to

discover what is best for each individual child. Together, parents and staff create an educational bridge for children, which nurtures and challenges them to grow and develop in their first formal learning experience.

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The JCC Chicago Early Childhood Code of Honor is based on four pillars

***Respect***

***Honesty***

***Cooperation***

***Safety***

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Parents and staff are expected to adhere to these important principles which we believe are the key elements to positive, meaningful community at JCC Chicago.

# Parents

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## **respect**

- I/We will respect and comply with JCC Chicago Early Childhood policy, and I/We understand that policies are set forth for the greater good of our community of children, parents and staff.
- I/We will respect individual differences among children, parents and staff.
- I/We will treat children, staff and other parents with thoughtfulness and consideration and refrain from using negative or abusive language.

## **honesty**

- I/We will be honest, truthful and fair in all interactions with staff, children and other parents.
- I/We will inform JCC Chicago Early Childhood administration of all medical, emotional and psychological factors that may influence the behavior and/or experience of my/our child.
- I/We will respect those decisions made by JCC Chicago Early Childhood staff.

## **cooperation**

- I/We will work in cooperation with staff to achieve common goals for children, families and the JCC Chicago Early Childhood community.

- I/We will fully and honestly complete and return all required forms to JCC Chicago Early Childhood administration in a timely manner.
- I/We will actively support JCC Chicago to implement Early Childhood rules and policies.

## **safety**

- I/We are committed to helping staff protect the community from risk of harm by strictly following the Communicable Diseases and Illness policies outlined in the JCC Chicago Early Childhood *Parent Guide*.
- I/We understand that there will be consequences for those behaviors that threaten the physical and emotional well-being of the JCC Chicago Early Childhood community.

# JCC Chicago Staff

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## **respect**

- I will respect the dignity of each family and its culture, language, customs, and beliefs.
- I will respect families' child rearing values and their right to make decisions for their children.
- I will treat children, parents and other staff with thoughtfulness and consideration and refrain from using negative or abusive language.

## **honesty**

- I will develop relationships of mutual trust with the families we serve.
- I will be honest, truthful and fair in all interactions with parents, children and other staff.

## **cooperation**

- I will interpret each child's progress to parents and acknowledge and build upon each child's strengths and competencies as I support families in their task of nurturing children.
- I will involve families in decisions affecting their child.
- I will follow written policies for the protection of confidentiality and the disclosure of children's records. These policy documents shall be made available to all program personnel and families.

Disclosure of children's records beyond family members, program personnel, and consultants having an obligation of confidentiality shall require familial consent (except in cases of abuse or neglect).

- In cases where family members are in conflict, I will work openly, sharing our observations of the child, to help all parties involved make informed decisions.
- I shall refrain from becoming an advocate for one party.

## **safety**

- I will inform the family of accidents involving their child, of risks such as exposures to contagious disease that may result in infection, and of occurrences that might result in emotional stress.
- I will maintain confidentiality and shall respect the family's right to privacy, refraining from disclosure of confidential information and intrusion into family life. However, when we have reason to believe that a child's welfare is at risk, it is permissible to share confidential information with agencies and individuals who may be able to intervene in the child's interest.



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