JCC Association Sheva Center Leadership Institute

In April 2018, ECC Assistant Director Andrea Rosenfield Short was selected as an inaugural member of the JCC Association’s Sheva Center Leadership Institute (SCLI). Made possible by the Jim Joseph Foundation, the fellowship is designed to enhance the skills of high-quality staff and create a culture of shared leadership in our school community. Along with 30 educators and administrators from across the country, Andrea has visited JCC’s and Reggio inspired schools throughout the United States, in addition to attending international retreats in Israel and Italy. These colleagues have become invaluable resources (and beloved friends!) who swap photos, share instructional strategies, and think together about topics relevant to the field.

With guidance from the Jewish Community Center Association’s (JCCA) Early Childhood Department, Andrea developed a Leadership Team at our JCC which brings together a group of people to examine and support innovative and best educational practices in the ECC. Since meeting in October and December, the team is in the process of implementing a shared vision and participate in meaningful conversations that advance the goals and values of our school and community. By creating a dynamic team of individuals, composed of parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and JCC professionals, this Leadership Team serves as the foundation for a vibrant school with visionary leaders. Amanda Katzman, a parent in the toddler program, serves as the parent chair and liaison to the Board of Directors.

Sheva
Sheva is a set of seven Jewish values that create a specific, shared language to support quality Early Childhood Education. Sheva is a moral compass that provides the “why” behind the choices our teachers make in the classroom and serves as the building blocks for the way we relate to one another, articulate our curriculum, and reflect on Judaism’s role in our lives. Values such as responsibility (Tikkun Olam), belonging and commitment (Br”it), and dignity and potential (Tzelem Elohim) communicate what we stand for as a school.

“I feel so incredibly blessed to be surrounded by this community of professionals who support, encourage, and challenge me to develop my practice. My work with them inspires and reminds me that young children are already so capable, with hearts and minds that create a kinder, more beautiful world.”

Archaeological Dig
The top of Masada
Western Wall
A school visit in Israel