THE JUF EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE ("THE COLLABORATIVE") launched in April 2018 as a broad-based coalition of early childhood directors, teachers, researchers, and community members committed to increasing access to and enrollment in high quality Jewish early childhood education in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Its core goals include strengthening the pipeline of teachers and leaders; advancing a culture of excellence in the schools; and expanding access to education by lowering financial and geographic barriers that families may face.

Members of The Collaborative include 37 non-profit, center-based, Jewish early childhood programs in Greater Chicago that reach 600 educators, more than 2600 families, and more than 3,000 young children. The majority of programs are DCFS licensed. The Collaborative seeks to be an exemplar for other communities to make deep, seismic changes in their early childhood programming to meet the diverse needs of children and families. Its initiatives and learnings have the potential to transform early childhood programs far and wide.

Who Can Attend Jewish Early Childhood Programs:

- Programs are available to children of all faiths.
- Programs serve children with diverse developmental and learning needs and welcome Early Intervention providers.
- Programs serve a range of ages between 6 weeks and 5 years.
- Programs provide half-day or full-day options.

Financial Incentives for Attending Jewish Early Childhood Programs:

- **JUF Right Start** provides a financial voucher for qualifying families enrolling their children during the academic year in a Jewish infant, toddler or preschool program for the first time.
  - $1,000 if the child plans on attending 2 or 3 days a week
  - $2,000 if the child plans on attending 4 or 5 days a week
- Many programs offer scholarships and utilize the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Recognition for the Collaborative:

- The Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative was named a Slingshot “10 to Watch” Organization for its innovative ideas and success in creating positive change.
  Visit [slingshotfund.org/10-to-watch](http://slingshotfund.org/10-to-watch) for more information.
The Collaborative Goals:

• Strengthening pipeline of teachers and leaders
  » The Chicago Teachers Project is a two-year fellowship that trains early childhood educators to use innovative teaching practices.
  » The Collaborative hosts leadership retreats that bring together program leaders to learn about topics relevant to staff and families.
  » The Collaborative partners with Erikson Institute to offer an online Master of Science in Early Childhood Education program to select teachers.

• Advancing a culture of excellence
  » Consistently identifies areas of growth for our classrooms and structures professional development around those needs. We are currently evaluating multiple assessment models to find the best fit for our programs.
  » The Collaborative focuses on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives including multiple intensive learning and anti-bias sessions for educators, and it provides early childhood programs with age-appropriate books celebrating diversity.

“I had never considered working with children as a career; when I got the chance [to work in a progressive Jewish early childhood center], I was blown away by the intellectual challenge and creativity before me. With my new perspective as a teacher, I was amazed by the children’s sense of curiosity, and I rediscovered my own.” — A Collaborative teacher

Partner programs:

Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School
Arie Crown Hebrew Day School
Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School
Beth Tikvah Congregation Early Childhood Center
BJBE’s Early Childhood Program at the Chava Center
BJE Early Childhood Center, Northbrook
BJE Early Childhood Center Wilmette
Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School
Chicago Jewish Day School
Childrenz Center
Congregation Beth Shalom Early Learning Center
Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program
Ginsburg Solomon Schechter Day School
Early Childhood Center
Glasser Preschool at Oak Park Temple
Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School
JCC Bernard Horwich
JCC Bernard Weinger
JCC Chicago Early Childhood at Am Shalom
JCC Chicago Early Childhood at Beth Emet Synagogue
JCC Chicago Early Childhood at ‘Z’ Frank Apachi
JCC Florence G. Heller
JCC Jacob Duman Early Childhood Center
JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center - Highland Park
JCYS Michael R. Lutz Family Center - Lincoln Square
JCYS Michael R. Lutz Family Center - Wicker Park
JCYS Northwest Family Center
Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov
JRC Early Childhood Center
Moadon Kol Chadash-Gan Gani
Moriah Early Childhood Center
Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Preschool and NSS Beth El
Shaarei Chinuch Montessori Day School
Sinai Preschool
Torah Academy
West Suburban Temple Har Zion
Yeshiva Ohr Baruch

Find a program your child will love through our preschool finder: juf.org/preschoolfinder

Powered by the Jewish United Fund, the Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative is a broad-based coalition of early childhood directors, teachers, researchers, and community members working together to increase access to and enrollment in high quality Jewish early childhood education.