

Monday, August 17th, 2020
JRC Early Childhood Center

Dear JRC Early Childhood Families,

We are writing to share some difficult news. While we were fully prepared to open the JRC Early Childhood Center in September, recent changes in enrollment and staffing have required us to adjust our plans. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone our opening until a future date. This has been a heart-wrenching decision for us to make, and we realize how disappointing this will feel to you and your children.

We are still confident that we would be able to open safely. However, our enrollment, staffing, and ability to enroll new families in our program has been impacted by community concerns about Covid and families' changing needs, and it isn't possible to run the preschool with our current enrollment and staff size. We have decided to postpone reopening until we are able to enroll more families and have enough teachers to staff the program safely. Our ECC is more than just a preschool, we're a community. We want all members of our community to feel safe, secure, and comfortable being together in-person, and we want to make sure that when we reopen, we're able to provide the consistent, warm, high-quality preschool program that JRC and our parent community is committed to.

When it comes to decisions around the pandemic, so much changes day by day. We will continue to keep an eye on Covid data in our area, and most of all, we will continue to be in touch with all of you on a weekly basis. We can't forecast the exact date that we will reopen – that will be a decision based on when we, as a community can return to school with sufficient teaching staff and student enrollment.

JRC will be issuing refunds for any tuition already paid for the 2020-2021 school year and cancelling any scheduled payment plans. We will soon send out a new registration form for you to reserve your child's spot in the preschool when we do reopen. It feels so sad after months of planning to have to once again say that we can't be together at school yet, but our community and connection is strong, and we look forward to when we will be able to be at school together. In the meantime, we are exploring options for other ways to hold in-person programs for small groups of preschool children at JRC, and hope to share the details about those events soon.

We know you may have thoughts or questions about this decision. We look forward to talking with you at the Zoom parent meeting on **Wednesday, August 19th at 4PM**). If you'd like to talk before then please feel free to contact Shelli or Micky at any time. There is a phrase in Hebrew, "*Nosay B'ol Im Chaveyro*", which refers to the Jewish value of "Sharing the burden with your fellow", or more simply, working together. The process of figuring out when and how we can reopen has been long, difficult, and sometimes confusing. We look forward to working together with you, our parent community, as we continue to figure this out and plan for how and when we can be together again with you and your children in person.

B'Shalom,
Shelli Patt
Early Childhood Director

Micky Baer
Executive Director