



Jewish
Education
Center
OF CLEVELAND

EDUCATOR FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EXCELLENCE

About the JEC:

The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JEC) is a nationally recognized central agency at the cutting edge of educational practice. Our work focuses on three pillars: advancing professional growth, enhancing organizational effectiveness, and expanding Jewish experiences. As the educational planning arm of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, we incubate new innovative programs, consult, and provide direct services to the Jewish education system in Cleveland. We work with day schools, congregations, early childhood centers, and other settings.

A key priority is strengthening and enhancing Jewish Early Childhood (EC) learning and engagement in Cleveland. We have a robust Early Childhood ecosystem with 11 JEC-affiliate EC Programs and four family engagement initiatives. We are working to bolster EC program capacity to increase the number of young Jewish children and their families who benefit from our JEC affiliate EC programs. Key strategies include ensuring that EC programs are fully staffed with quality teachers, maximizing desired enrollment, and increasing organizational viability. Our work is strategic: built on a foundation of research and evaluation. Yet, what makes our agency so compelling is the collaboration with incredible educators like you.

About the position:

The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland is seeking an Educator for Early Childhood Excellence who will enrich and expand the strong Early Childhood ecosystem in Cleveland by focusing on three areas:

1. Supporting Early Childhood programs and professionals.
2. Fostering engagement for families with young children.
3. Serving as a Jewish Early Childhood thought leader.

The Educator for Early Childhood Excellence will be a crucial leader and practitioner on our JEC team. At a time of significant challenges to early childhood, there is an opportunity to maximize the potential of Jewish Early Childhood schools to attract, engage, and inspire young children, their families, and their educators. You will convene and connect practitioners. You will participate in national networks, research, advocate, evaluate and build new models. This position is full-time (part-time considered).

The ideal candidate will have excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills; experience working in a Jewish early childhood setting, preferably in a leadership position; strong Jewish background; work well with educators from all spectrums of Jewish thought and practice; thrive working in partnership with early childhood directors, as well as teaching and coaching teachers; experience initiating and completing projects with limited oversight.

Responsibilities:

- Supporting Early Childhood programs and professionals
 - Convene and support the JEC's Early Childhood Educator's Network.
 - Organize, develop, and facilitate professional development for directors and teachers. This may include communities of practice, courses in constructivist Jewish education, and coaching.
 - Plan and implement the early childhood Yom Iyyun and directors retreat every other year in collaboration with local EC directors.
 - Strengthen Jewish content and experiences for our partner agencies.
 - Launch a recruitment and retention initiative for teachers.

- Fostering engagement for families with young children
 - Identify needs, develop capacity and explore new models.
 - Reimagine and oversee family engagement initiatives that encourage engagement of families with young children, birth to PreK.
 - Collaborate with other city leaders supporting Jewish Early Childhood learning, including PJ Library (staffed by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland), jHUB (a joint Federation-JEC initiative that supports interfaith families), and others.
 - Support social media outreach.

- Early Childhood Thought Leader
 - Provide leadership and staffing support for the Early Childhood Steering Committee.
 - Manage research and identify needs in the community.
 - Advise on communal planning.
 - Research Ohio and national early childhood initiatives.
 - Advocate and support local and initiatives for Jewish early childhood (e.g., recruitment and retention of EC teachers).
 - Represent Cleveland Jewish Early Childhood in national networks.

Qualifications:

- 3+ years Jewish early childhood educational experience (preferred).
- Degree in early childhood, Jewish education, Jewish professional studies, or an education-related field (advanced degree preferred).
- Proven track record of forging positive change in a school setting.
- Demonstrated leadership in Jewish ECE at the local and national levels.
- Experience with group facilitation.
- Ability to translate complex technical topics into easy-to-understand concepts.
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills.
- Positive and upbeat manner.
- Curious and motivated disposition.
- Strong listener.
- High emotional intelligence.

TO APPLY, send a cover letter and resume, along with a writing sample produced independently (e.g., letter to parents, curriculum piece, or another work-related document) to jobs@jecc.org