

**marlene
meyerson jcc**

manhattan THE BERT AND SANDRA WASSERMAN CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE

2s TOGETHER



PROGRAM INFORMATION

2s Together takes place on the lower levels of our building. We have three pre-nursery classrooms and three teaching teams. The classrooms are designed with the children in mind and are equipped with developmentally appropriate furniture and materials.

Class sizes range from 10 to 11 children; each class is led by a team of three teachers. In addition, we have a curriculum coordinator and a floating teacher who will fill in as needed.

Each class begins with a welcome routine and review of the day's schedule. Children then have the opportunity for explorations within the classroom, typically followed by circle time and snack. Each day we also take full advantage of the JCC facilities, either by playing on the rooftop playground or going to the third floor gym for structured activities with our coaches. There is flexibility and choice within the classroom and schedule structure so that the children can explore and grow based on their interests.

We believe that the different components of the daily schedule allow for and encourage independence, social connections, and physical and emotional development.

The overall goals of 2s Together are to give children the opportunity to:

- Become part of a classroom community
- Form new connections through social interactions with their peers and teachers and develop independent relationships
- Gently separate and acclimate to a classroom setting
- Gain confidence in themselves and their abilities





SEPARATION

We view separation as an opportunity to form new connections. It is treated as an individualized process, and there is no universal formula or time frame. Communication between teachers and families is of utmost importance, as the goal is to establish comfortable and safe routines that aid in the process.

Our teachers have extensive experience with separation and will work with each family to ensure that everyone is comfortable with the separation plan. Flexibility and trust are key, and priority is placed on readiness, rather than a swift separation.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

A healthy partnership between home and school cultivates each child's curiosity, joy, compassion, and independence, laying the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. With the goal of fostering this partnership, teachers share with families weekly reflections as a window into the classroom. This communication includes photos, song lyrics, titles of books read, and details about materials used in explorations. Families are encouraged to reinforce the 2s Together experience at home by using this resource to speak with children about their time with teachers and classmates. Families and teachers have the opportunity to speak during parent orientation, an autumn conference call, and throughout the year during birthday and holiday celebrations. We value close parent-staff communication and are always available to speak with families about their children.

JUDAISM IN THE CLASSROOM

We believe in joyful Jewish experiences and incorporate Jewish holidays and values into the classroom curriculum in developmentally appropriate ways. This often includes providing sensory experiences that create connections to the larger themes and holiday traditions. These experiences allow children to connect to Judaism in a multisensory way.

SHABBAT TOGETHER

Our Shabbat Together class is an optional third day when children in our program celebrate Shabbat on Friday mornings. They light candles together, recite the blessings, enjoy a snack of challah and grape juice and a Shabbat sing-along led by a music teacher. Explorations focus on ritual objects connected to Shabbat, Jewish holidays, and values that include charity (tzedakah), good deeds (mitzvot), and community (kehillah). Class time can include making challah, water play with kiddush cups, or excavating Israeli artifacts at the sand table. The children sing Shabbat songs, dance, absorb Hebrew, and, of course, welcome Shabbat together.



TOILET TRAINING

We are aware that most 2-year-olds are not toilet trained, and our teachers will change diapers as needed. Families are expected to provide and replenish necessary supplies. As the year progresses, teachers will extend any toilet training efforts happening at home in partnership with families.

CLOTHING

In our classrooms, we encourage children to explore in a way that can often result in mess, so “mess-ready” clothing is preferred in order to provide your children the opportunity to learn through exploration without worry.





EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

2s Together is a play-based, values-driven program that encourages exploration, growth, and discovery. We believe that children are competent and capable individuals, each with their own learning styles and interests. Through our child-centered curriculum, we aim to foster the creativity of each child.

We believe that children thrive in nurturing, warm environments designed with them in mind. We see our teachers as facilitators of positive, engaging experiences that support the needs of the children in their care.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2s Together is a registration-based program; no application is required. Enrollment is now open for the Winter/Spring semester, which will begin mid-January and run through mid-June. The program is held two mornings a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, please contact **Yael Kahn Pinto** at ykahn Pinto@mmjccm.org or visit mmjccm.org/2s-Together.