



Tucson Jewish Community Center

**Early Childhood Education
Family Orientation 2026-2027**
Joline Riddle

EVERYONE BELONGS
& some people join!



DIRECTOR

Joline Riddle, M.Ed.

Started with the J in 2015

BA Elem Education

MA Early Childhood Education

Educational Leadership
Certification

Currently working on PHD at
UArizona

Elementary teacher (K-3)

U of A COE undergrad supervisor
and instructor

Educational Leadership
Certification

Pul



Assistant DIRECTOR

**Tiffany Mills-
Horton, M.Ed.**

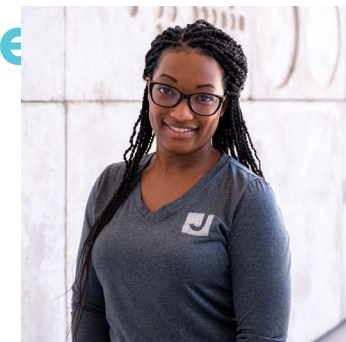
Started with the J in 2019

BA Elem Education

Currently working on EdD at
Grand Canyon University

MA Education Leadership

Assistant Director & Lead
Teacher (Pre-K-K)





Administration Team

ECE Office Manager

Jessie Roth

Started with the J in 2025

Child-Parent Centers and
the U of A

BA Community Advocacy &
Social Policy



**Jewish Culture &
Curriculum Coordinator**

Jennifer Greenberg

Started with the J in 2017

20 years of experience with
young children, Previous
Director, & Hebrew Teacher

BA Sociology / MA Teaching



**Communication
Coordinator**

Meghan Briceland

Started with the J
November 2023

Past ECE Director, ELA
Teacher, & Bus Driver

12+ years experience

MA Elementary Education



Our Amazing Faculty

Lead Teachers

- Develop curriculum and deliver instruction
- Provide leadership for the room
- Communicate with Parents

Assistant Teachers

- Help in curriculum and instruction
- Step in for absent lead teacher

Support Faculty – FT & PT

- Provide support to classrooms while teachers take their lunch breaks, participate in meetings, or are absent
- Help in curriculum and instruction



Supporting Agencies



AZ Department of Health

Baseline for all child care centers in Arizona; provide annual and as needed monitoring of the facility.

AZ First Things First/Quality First

Arizona's initiative to enhance services to young children and families. Provide coaching and evaluations of classrooms and program.





Curriculum Development

We use a collaborative approach to develop our curriculum based on the interests & developmental needs of the children. These are determined through:

- Observation
- Conversations with children
 - Parent communication
- Collaborative discussions with other educators

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Observation & Kidwatching

When we take time to observe young children, we realize the joys and challenges of their learning and interactions. By observing, we can better understand their needs and motivations.

“The purpose of kidwatching is to help children build their capabilities to use language to communicate and learn. Teachers achieve this by inquiring into who children are, what they know, what they can do, and how they learn.”

~Kidwatching: Documenting Children's Literacy Development, Gretchen Owocki & Yetta Goodman



Kids at Play

Children play to learn about their world. As they grow, they are naturally motivated to try more complex tasks. As parents and teachers, we provide environments where children feel safe, secure and willing to try new things.

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Arizona Department of Education (ADE)



Arizona Infant/Toddler Developmental Guidelines

- + Social & Emotional Learning
- + Language & Communication Development
- + Physical & Motor Development
- + Approaches to Learning
- + Cognitive Development

Arizona Early Learning Standards (Twos-Pre- Kindergarten)

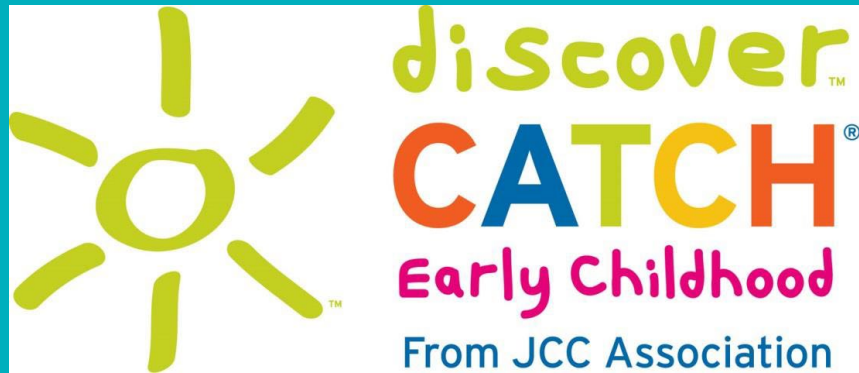
- + Language/Literacy
- + Science
- + Social Studies
- + Mathematics
- + Fine Arts
- + Physical Fitness



Art as a Process for Learning

Art experiences are provided as a way for children to learn about color, texture, balance, and their own creativity. Our goal is to develop and foster each child's unique talents and embrace what they add to our program.





We are proud to be a part of the Sheva Learning Community network!

- Opportunities to focus on engaging families
- Providing learning opportunities for our faculty
- Supporting educators as professionals



- Music
- Nutrition
- Fitness – discover CATCH
- Emergent Curriculum
- Jewish Culture



Sheva Lenses

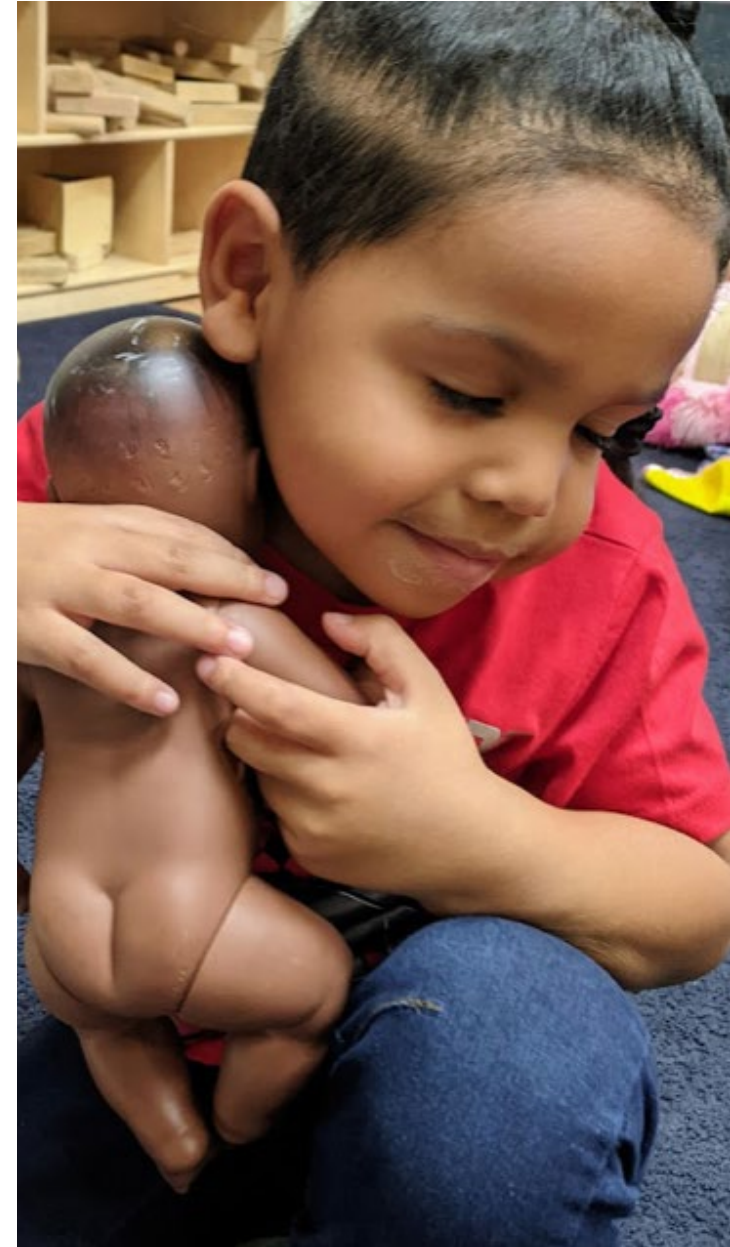
- **Awakening (Hit'o'rerut)** – Our lives are enriched by a sense of amazement
- **Covenant** (Brit) – Commitment to self, family, friends, and the world is the foundation for a sense of responsibility and compassion toward others
- **Divine Image** (Tzelem Elohim) – At each person's core is an undeniable spark of dignity that requires nourishment and encouragement
- **Holiness** (Kedusha) – We strive to bring our full presence to everything we do, to recognize the unique, miraculous nature of every moment of our lives
- **Interpretation** (D'rash) – A spirit of inquiry is the impetus for growth and reflection
- **Journey** (Masa) – Telling and retelling stories from our past helps us to renew our strength and refine our vision for the future
- **Repair the world** (Tikkun Olam) – We must live for the benefit of others, both in this generation and for the generations to come

We weave the values of the lenses throughout our educational day and professional development



Philosophy

- ◆ The ECE Program provides a safe, nurturing extension of family and community in a developmentally appropriate environment. Children are entrusted to our faculty who model respect, caring, compassion, and cooperation with each interaction. Effective communication between parents and the ECE staff is essential to the program's success
- ◆ Learning is taking place at all times
- ◆ Our faculty works to help children learn positive behaviors rather than punishing negative behaviors.
- ◆ *Children are redirected and, if appropriate, given an explanation for the redirection*
- ◆ *"It's important that we use gentle hands to touch others so that no one is hurt."*





Food

The JCC observes Jewish Dietary Laws

Dairy Lunches

- Lunches may not include meat or shellfish
- Meals will be kept in a refrigerator in your child's classroom
- We will provide feedback on lunches sent and provide ideas

Celebrations & Bringing in Snacks to Share

Families may bring in birthday treats and snacks to share, provided they are prepackaged with a specific hechsher label.

- Homemade items may never be shared in the classroom.
- Fresh fruits and veggies do not require a hechsher label.

Café @ the J

- Families may select to purchase lunch from the on-site café
- Online ordering

The Tucson J ECE observes Kashrut Standards

(Jewish dietary laws)

- A snack of fresh fruits or vegetables is provided each morning and afternoon
- On Fridays, as part of our Shabbat celebration, challah bread is also provided
- Lunch may be ordered or brought from home

Menu Suggestions

Macaroni and Cheese
Pasta with/out sauce
Peanut/Sun butter and
crackers
Deviled eggs
Veggies with dip
Tuna salad and crackers
Fruit salad with cheese
Macaroni and tuna salad
Rice salad with fruit or
veggies

English muffins with cheese
Crackers and egg salad
Yogurt and granola
Bagel with cheese
Yogurt with fresh fruit
Cottage cheese with fruit or
veggies
Tortillas with cream cheese
Cucumber-cheese sandwich
Humus and pita



Illness Policy

Please do not send your child to school if any of the following is observed within 24 hours:

- Fever over 100.4 degrees (without medication)
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Cold or flu symptoms

We will contact you to pick up your child if we observe any of the above.

We may contact you for information in the case of other symptoms

- Rash
- Discharge from the eye
- Bumps/hives
- Etc.



Reporting an Illness

ECE Office
520-615-
5437

Please call the ECE Office if your child will be absent.

If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness, please report this to the ECE office.

We are required by the AZ Health Department to post notices of all contagious illnesses.



A Successful Start

Separation

- Anxiety in a new situation
- May exhibit behaviors such as shyness, anger, crying or clinging
- Normal part of the human experience and shows an attachment between the parent and child
- Parents and children often share anxiety
- Young children are working on and learning emotional control
- Prep your child
- Provide a consistent, loving, and short goodbye routine
 - Use the classroom threshold
 - Show confidence – be upbeat
 - It's their room
- “See you later alligator”

Attachment

- Forming a bond with teachers or other caregivers
- Allow the child to feel safe and secure in their new environment
- Provide sympathetic response with getting children involved with activities (distraction)
- Acknowledge children's feelings
- Teachers stay close
- Children are able to focus on their own development when they feel secure in their attachments
- Call us
- Communicate what comforts your child
- We look forward to this stage in our partnership together as we comfort and nurture and engage with your child

Home/School Partnerships

Informal Communication

Written - Daily Notes

Phone calls – teachers will return calls when not with children

Electronic – Brightwheel

Conferences

Dates – November & March

Discussion – Your child's development based on anecdotal notes, work samples, and average developmental milestones

Visiting

Schedule with your classroom teacher

Volunteering

Room parents needed
Faculty Appreciation (May)
Family Shabbat (May)
Field Day (Spring)
STEAM Sunday (Spring)
And more!



Formal Communications

Brightwheel & Buggy Bulletin	• Brightwheel is used to share information and pictures from the classroom. • Buggy Bulletin is sent once a month (2nd Sunday) to your email you have on file with your membership
ECE Publications	• Healthy Lunches • Parent Guide • Transitions • Safe Toddler Food
Surveys & Benchmarking	• Our department and the JCC as a whole will often seek the opinion of our members to help in developing our programs.



Information & Finances

ECE Office

- Late fees
- Program Changes
- Lunch fees
- Prescription Medication Consent Form
- Turn in updated immunization records

JCC Accounting Office

- Monthly ECE tuition payments
- Membership payments
- Billing questions or concerns
- Holding fees
- Childcare Flexible Spending Forms shoag@tucsonjcc.org

Front Desk/Membership

- General facility questions or concerns
- Membership questions or concerns

membership@tucsonjcc.org

This department does not have specific information about ECE. For example: they cannot help you change your school

Other

Questions, concerns or suggestions concerning the program – please feel free to call or email Joline or Tiffany!

jriddle@tucsonjcc.org

Tmills-Horton@tucsonjcc.org



Health & Safety Precautions

- Families self screen and stay home when sick
- Wash your children's hands when you drop off in the morning
- Faculty have continued and up-to-date training
- Classroom lessons will promote healthy hygiene
- Signs posted
- Cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day

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Family Guide

- About our school
- Teaching approach
- Policies and Procedures
 - Contract options and changes
 - Emergency & Immunizations
 - Food
 - Late Policy
 - Conferences
 - Illness
 - Family Involvement
 - Jewish Holidays and closures



Important Forms

Updated Annually

Emergency Card

Acknowledgement Form

Current copy of immunizations

About Me

Medication Consent Form (as
needed)

It is important that we continue to have current and accurate information. These forms must be completed prior to beginning school and can be updated as needed. All forms can be found at tucsonjcc.org.

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e Learn Through Play

In play a child always behaves beyond his average age, above his daily behavior. In play it is as though he were a head taller than himself.

~Lev Vygotsky

Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play.

~Heraclitus



Renewal Registration

- **Begins in January for the next school year.**
- **Everyone must complete a renewal to be registered for the fall.**
- **Scholarships will need updates as well at this time**
- **Open enrollment begins in February for new families.**
- **Placement is first-come-first-served during open enrollment**
- **Camp is included for all 12-month contracts**



- **Family Guide**
- **School Calendar**
- **Lunch Ordering**
- **Emergency Card**
- **About Me Questionnaire**
- **Medication Consent Form**
- **Transition Sheet**
- **Policy Acknowledgement**



Contact

Jessie Roth – Office

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Tiffany Mills-Horton – Assistant Director

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Coordinator**

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Meghan Briceland –Communication Coordinator

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