



EarlyJ

Early Childhood Jewish & Israel Cultural Ambassador Program

Curated by EarlyJ in collaboration with Oranim College in Israel

Program Overview

EarlyJ seeks to spark a lifelong relationship, identity, and practice for the next generation of Jews. We understand that the growth and success of our Jewish Early Childhood Education (JECE) community depends on more than just expanded enrollment. Our commitment to excellence extends to the very individuals who bring our JECE programs to life — our educators. We acknowledge our educators as the backbone of our JECE community and prioritize investing in their professional development and compensation.

In partnership with Oranim College in Israel, EarlyJ has created a new and exciting pilot program for JECE educators in the Bay Area - The Early Childhood Jewish & Israel Cultural Ambassador Program.

Program Goals

- Strengthen Jewish identity and foster a connection to Israel and the Jewish people.
- Equip educators with the latest theoretical insights in the field of JECE.
- Further practical pedagogical proficiency tailored to JECE, emphasizing an Israeli community kibbutz orientation.
- Deepen understanding of Israeli and Jewish culture, including practical insights into effectively integrating these cultural aspects.
- Increasing Israel related curriculum and cultural events at the preschool.

Program Framework

Introduction to Jewish Early Childhood Education (virtual meetings)

- Four online weekly sessions

17-Day Israel Seminar

- Academic learning
- Early Childhood Education practicum in Israeli preschools
- Israel experience - exploring Israel: a dynamic journey through history, society, and culture

Project Presentation and Reflection (Virtual Meetings)

- Four online weekly sessions



Program Benefits

- All expenses are covered by EarlyJ. (Including flights).
- Upon completing the training and receiving a certificate, participants will receive a one-time bonus of \$5,000. EarlyJ and the preschool will evenly cover this bonus.
- Five academic credits from Oranim College.
- At the end of the seminar, educators will receive the title of Jewish & Israel Cultural Ambassador.

Program Target Audience

This pilot program is intended for leading educators: preschool directors, associate directors, assistant directors, and lead teachers with at least five years of experience in the field of JECE, focusing on children from infancy to age five. Our hope is to expand participation over time.

Oranim College

Oranim College of Education is the largest and leading academic college of education in the North of Israel, catering to thousands of students enrolled in bachelor's and master's degree programs in education, teaching certification courses, and advanced career training.

The early childhood field at Oranim College focuses on the years between birth and the age of six. The curricula emphasize the training of preschool educators with a humanistic worldview, an understanding of the child's developmental needs, knowledge in building learning environments compatible with development, knowledge in planning and building studies, as well as cultural Israeli and Jewish knowledge. It aims to grow educators who infuse practical and theoretical knowledge into their work, and show awareness of themselves, their culture, and their environment.



**What we need more
than anything else is not
textbooks but text
people**

Abraham Joshua Heschel

