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# Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center

at Congregation Sha’are Shalom

Parent Handbook

A creative, values-based program preparing children for the future



Revised 07/23



Welcome to the Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center!

In choosing the Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center (RUJEC) you have ensured that your child will acquire a strong Jewish identity that is relevant to his/her/their daily life, as well as some of the basic skills needed to be a good citizen of our world. Jewish values are meant to guide each of us within the Jewish community. Our classrooms are small “communities,” designed to enhance the development of those values. It will be a rewarding experience for both you and your child, no matter what religion your family practices.

We want you to know and understand our goals. We invite you to look into our happy, noisy, creative classrooms and see your child at play. We want you to understand the validity of play and its importance in learning. Parents and teachers together can help your child reach his/her/their full human potential.

This handbook contains the policies and procedures of our program. Please read it thoroughly. If you have any questions, please call us at 703.737.0686.

Thank you.

Philosophy

To best develop a meaningful Jewish identity, Judaism must be a part of every day. We integrate Jewish values and a Jewish way of looking at the world into every component of our day.

It is our belief that education is the foundation of a child’s life and that Jewish education should be the cornerstone for Jewish children. Children need a happy, relaxed and supportive environment that contributes to the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of each child. The early years are a crucial time for learning. Believing that learning takes place through active, hands-on experiences, we create opportunities for the children to explore new materials, ask questions and solve problems on their own. The classrooms are equipped with a variety of interest areas to stimulate self-initiated learning. Children also have the opportunity to work together in small groups. The teachers are facilitators who enhance the learning by the questions they ask, the information they provide and the behavior they model. There is always a positive atmosphere of encouragement, cooperation, guidance and respect.

Program Goals

RUJEC is committed to providing creative experiences that help children develop a positive feeling about Judaism. We will celebrate Shabbat each week. We will explore the historical events, symbols and customs connected to the Jewish holidays. We will expose the children to the Hebrew language.

RUJEC’s programs are a result of careful and detailed planning in accordance with the best available knowledge of early childhood growth and development. The programs are designed to meet the individual child’s needs and to promote continuous growth in all areas of development.

Play is the major activity of all young children and the basic ingredient of their learning. It is the medium for self-expression, the way each child organizes and makes sense of the world. To play is to investigate, hypothesize, test and discover. It provides the most permanent and meaningful learning of cognitive concepts. Play promotes social values. Social sensitivity is not something that is suddenly achieved. It is a slow process that involves learning how to share, cooperate and empathize with others. Through play experiences, the child learns to initiate and sustain relationships with others, building interpersonal trust and emotional maturity. We provide a large variety of constructive, dramatic, and creative materials and experiences all in the context of a Jewish setting.

RUJEC Curriculum Outline

**To offer a safe and healthy environment**

1. Teacher/child ratios meet the suggested ratios of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and generally provide better supervision than state requirements.

2. Staff will conduct brief wellness check as each child enters school at the beginning of the day.

3. Rooms, equipment and materials are routinely inspected and kept in clean working order.

4. All staff are trained in appropriate methods of preventing illness and maintaining a safe environment. Staff are certified in basic First Aid & CPR.

5. Children are never to be left unattended, and always within sight and sound supervision.

**To provide a developmentally appropriate program that offers children choices in a supportive and stimulating environment**

1. Space, routines, materials, and equipment are used as resources for activities that are appropriate to the developmental levels and individual learning styles of the children.

2. Activities are designed at appropriate developmental levels to build self-esteem and to encourage curiosity, exploration, and problem solving.

3. As a play-based, child-directed program, activities are designed based on interests of the children in the classroom

3. All children are encouraged to explore a variety of individual, small and large group options so that boys and girls have the opportunity to experience different roles and feel free to experiment with all materials, equipment and toys.

**To promote the social/emotional development of each child**

1. The environment is conducive to developing relationships with other children and adults. Cooperation efforts, mutual respect, appreciation of diversity, and shared leadership characterize all activities.

2. Emotional security grows as each child is guided in self-knowledge, self-acceptance and pride in individual accomplishments. Children are also helped to maintain a comfortable separation from their parents as they join in activities that promote a sense of competence and independence.

3. Social skills are developed under the guidance of the staff that helps set the stage for problem solving, cooperative play, and shared responsibility.

**To promote cognitive growth**

1. Activities involving communication, literacy, math, science, music, drama and art are offered at appropriate developmental levels to foster each child’s growth and competence.

2. Children are encouraged to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings as they expand their understanding of the world and to represent these ideas to others through discussion, art and dramatic play.

3. Children are encouraged to explore new materials, investigate new areas, and develop confidence in their ability to process and integrate new knowledge.

4. Listening and thinking skills are naturally developed through story reading and conversations. Children are read to daily and we encourage parents to continue this activity at home.

5. Children are given the opportunity to make choices as they solve problems, join in activities and plan their day.

**To promote physical development**

1. Physical development is promoted through both daily structured and choice activities, such as playground & movement activities.

2. Fine motor development is promoted by the inclusion of manipulative and age appropriate tools.

**Learning Experiences**

**Art:** RUJEC offers children various opportunities for the child to experience satisfaction with manipulation, experimentation, and exploration of different mediums. This provides outlets for the expression of ideas, feelings and emotions. The process, not the product, is what we focus on.

**Dramatic Play:** Children reenact experiences from their world to understand and explore their meaning. With the help of props such as dolls, hats, and other items, a child may explore being a parent caring for a baby, a doctor giving shots, or an astronaut on the moon. Children express new knowledge and use new vocabulary through dramatic play.

**Large and Small Motor Activities:** Climbing, pedaling, running, dumping, pushing and pulling are a few of the large muscle activities encouraged by the availability of cars, slides, balance beams, and climbing apparatus. Activities such as cutting and pasting, art activities, puzzles, and other manipulative materials, provide opportunities for the practice and development of small motor skills.

**Music:** RUJEC offers daily music opportunities which include singing, rhythms, listening, moving, experimentation with various instruments, and creation and interpretation of music, as well as a weekly music class with a music teacher

**Experiences with Literacy:** Children will be provided books and be involved with child-dictated stories, discussions, puppets & storytelling.

**Science and Math:** Experiences offer the child first-hand opportunities for scientific discovery and an understanding of number and quantity. Such experiences include cooking activities, planting seeds, counting, sorting and numerous others.

**Blocks:** Provide opportunities for dramatic play, social interaction and cooperative activity, as well as opportunities for perceptual and spatial learning.

**Judaics:** Children will have opportunities to learn about their Judaic heritage through stories, songs, games, art, creative play.

**Outdoor Play:** Children have daily opportunities (weather permitting) to play outdoors on the playground. The playgrounds are designed for climbing, balancing, running, exploring, sliding, and other gross motor activities.

(Adapted from JCC Early Childhood Resource)

Licensure and Accreditation

As a synagogue preschool, RUJEC is currently licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a religiously exempt school.  Since we are a religiously exempt school, we are not bound by some of the Virginia Department of Social Services regulations governing other preschools, but we voluntarily operate as if we were bound by these regulations. We meet the most rigorous standards that Virginia has developed for preschools. The certificate of licensure is displayed in the school.

Facility

RUJEC is housed in Congregation Sha’are Shalom, located at 19357 Evergreen Mills Road in Leesburg. The facility’s classroom sizes exceed what are required by both Virginia licensing and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards. RUJEC also has a large, age-appropriate playground with multiple activity areas. . The school has its own small kitchen which is used to assemble cooking projects, when needed, and Shabbat snack. The building has two additional kitchens which follow the synagogue’s policy for keeping kosher. Please contact the Executive Director at 703-737-6500 if you would like information on using the kitchens.

Staff Qualifications

All staff members exceed minimum qualifications required by both the Commonwealth of Virginia and NAEYC.

Teachers have a minimum of a four-year degree, many with teaching degrees, child development classes, education classes and many years of related experience. Our teaching assistants, while required only to have a high school diploma, most have college-level training in education. Other qualifications include, but are not limited to:

* Compliance with background check requirements
* Being of good character and reputation
* Being able to carry out assigned tasks
* Being willing and able to accept training and supervision
* Being able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
* Being able to communicate with emergency personnel and understand instructions on emergency procedures

Additionally, all staff are trained in CPR/First Aid and certified by a physician to be free from any disability which would prevent them from caring for children.

Ratios

The requirement for teacher:student ratios by Virginia for religiously exempt schools is one staff member for every ten children. NAEYC prefers between 1:6 to 1:9, depending on the age of the group. Our school maintains a maximum 1:5 ratio for twos or 1:8 for threes and fours classes, and ratios are often much lower.

Admission Policies

The Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center welcomes children and families without regard to race, religion,

cultural heritage, political beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, marital status of family or national

origin.

RUJEC embraces and welcomes the diversity of our community and encourages everyone to seek meaning and fulfillment by participating in our rich programming inspired by our Jewish heritage.

Members of Congregation Sha’are Shalom and their siblings are given priority when registration begins. Currently enrolled children and their siblings have second priority. When open enrollment begins, applications are sent out to all interested parties.

RUJEC is open to children with special needs. Admission will be at the discretion of the directors after meeting with the parents and child to ascertain that the program can meet the needs of the child. Parents must make a full disclosure of the nature and degree of the child’s special needs. If the child has already been through private evaluations or Child Find, it is extremely helpful for the findings to be shared with RUJEC’s directors. This information will be kept confidential. It is understood that our staff has no specialized training.

Parents are asked to consider outside support, as necessary, and to share the child’s needs with us. The more we know about your child, the better we can support them.

Enrollment Procedure:

Enrolling one’s child requires a completed application form along with the registration fee payable to Congregation Sha’are Shalom. Enrollments are accepted in the order in which they are received. When an application has been received, the required registration forms will be sent home. These forms must be returned prior to the opening of classes. Enrollment is confirmed upon receipt of the first month’s tuition, which functions as a non-refundable deposit.

Children’s Files

All files are kept strictly confidential and information is handled with the utmost respect for privacy and confidentiality. Each child’s file must contain a:

* current registration/release form
* current Commonwealth of Virginia health form signed by the child’s doctor
* developmental form

We must see each child’s original Birth Certificate prior to the first class at RUJEC. Failure to provide the requested forms could result in our asking you to leave the program until the forms are on file.

Tuition and Fees

An annual registration fee is due with the application. Tuition rates for specific programs are quoted on the Sha’are Shalom website and on the school brochure. <https://www.shaareshalomleesburg.org/pre-school>

Tuition is for the entire year as stated in the Parent Contract. RUJEC will accept monthly payments, due on the first of each month. Payments are considered late on the 10th of the month and may be assessed a $15.00 late fee.

Collection costs including legal fees shall be added to your account balance if legal action is required.

Withdrawals

In the event it becomes necessary to withdraw a child, written notice must be given thirty (30) days in advance to give us the opportunity to fill the opening. If RUJEC can fill the opening, we will notify you in writing and release you from your remaining annual tuition obligation.

Vacation and Holiday Credits

No credit on tuition is given for scheduled holidays and vacation periods. Because of vacations and holidays, some months are shorter than others. Tuition is based on a full school year and can be divided into ten equal, monthly payments for your convenience.

Program Closings

RUJEC closes for inclement weather when Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) are closed. We do not have our own separate announcement on the radio or TV. When LCPS announces closure, we are closed.

If LCPS has a one hour delay, we will open at our regular time. If LCPS has a two hour delay, we will open one hour late and will not hold Adult-Tot class.

Please take safety into consideration when coming to class. Just because we are open does not mean you should take unnecessary risks if your neighborhood has been particularly hard hit by weather. Emails & FB posts will be sent regarding the status of the school.

Additional closures that may be necessary due to Covid or other conditions are outlined in your contract.

Inclement Weather Make-up Policy

There are snow days built into our structure: 4 days for 4-day students; 3 days for 3-day students. After we have missed these days, additional make-up days will be at the discretion of the directors.

Communication

Daily communication will be through email. Teachers send daily emails outlining activities of the day. Email will be our primary information medium as we feel this is the most efficient and most environmentally-friendly way to stay in touch. It is the parent’s responsibility to read teacher and school emails. Please feel free to communicate with the teacher/director throughout the year. If issues cannot be resolved with the teacher/director, the Parent Liaison, Caitlin Miller ([camiller2@icloud.com](mailto:camiller2@icloud.com)) or RUJEC’s CSS Board Representatives, Carly & David Linden, (carlyeconomos@gmail.com/david.b.linden@gmail.com) can be contacted.

Please help us give your child the most successful experience possible by informing us of changes in your family’s life such as a birth, death, relative’s visit, a pet’s death, a remodeling, etc. We may offer meetings with other professionals to assist parents in their parenting role and we can often offer sources of information for questions parents may have about parenting issues. When appropriate, teachers may use these events to model/teach social skills.

It is VITAL that contact information be updated throughout the year as necessary. There is little more disconcerting to a child than being sick and knowing that no one is able to reach someone to pick him/her up. If your child will be absent, we ask that parents please leave a message at the school’s designated phone, 703.737.0686. We are required by regulations to note a reason for absence on attendance forms.

Health and Safety

For safety reasons, all staff members in our preschool classes will receive updated CPR and First Aid certification. They are also certified by a physician to be in good health. Staff members are trained to do Daily Health Screenings. These daily health observations are made as each child arrives. Any child or staff member who is noticeably ill will not be admitted. Should a child become ill, s/he will be isolated from the group. The parents will be notified and required to pick the child up as soon as possible.

When a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, is vomiting, has diarrhea, has a rash or a yellow/green nasal discharge, s/he/they should not be sent to school. A child may return when s/he/they have been symptom-free for 24 hours. With the threat of Covid still exiting, we will be vigilant and strict with these guidelines.

Please see Covid procedures here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MRPi6OD8-EPypFawIT7B04HPcgH_GmqkfNiMe_f8WVs/edit>

Per licensing regulations, we ask that you report to us any contagious disease you or a member of your family develops. As appropriate, we will post a notice informing parents their child may have been exposed. We will make every effort to ensure the family’s privacy is maintained.

As mandated by Virginia, no medications of any type (over-the-counter or prescription) will be administered to a child by the staff at the school. This includes ointments, sunscreen and insect repellent. As children are outside most days, please be sure to apply needed sunscreen or insect repellent before leaving your child at school.

A signed medical release form authorizing RUJEC to obtain any necessary medical treatment must be in each child’s file in the event that parents cannot be contacted. If a child has a life-threatening health condition (needs an epipen, nebulizer, or glucagon, for example), special forms must be filled out and the parent must meet with the teacher and director to be sure the physician-provided protocol is understood.

Accident and Injury Procedures

If a child has a minor scrape or bump, the staff will wash the injury and apply ice and/or bandages if necessary. Parents will be notified immediately if there is a more serious injury.

Public Liability Insurance

RUJEC is covered by Congregation Sha’are Shalom’s Liability Insurance policy through Selective Insurance Company. For more information regarding this please contact Laurie Mangold, the executive director at Sha’are Shalom, at 703-737-6500

In and Out Procedures and Security

**Drop-off**

For the 2023-24 school year, parents will be able to use the carpool line OR walk their child to their classroom in the morning. Children can be dropped off by carpool or may walk-in no earlier than 8:50. If you are using the walk-in option, we encourage you to quickly help your child hang up their backpack and transition them to their classroom. Our security doors will be shut at 9:15 and all parents will need to be out of the classroom hallway by then. While there are going to be exceptions, we highly encourage everyone to arrive by 9:00. RUJEC staff have planned out activities & experiences. Arriving late on a regular basis often distracts instruction and may mean your child is missing out on valuable programming. It is also much more difficult for a child to join in when the other children are already involved in play. If you need to drop off your child after 9:15, please pull up to the carpool lane and ring the bell or text us at 703-434-9089 (Sheryl) or

703-431-6313 (Allison). The co-directors are also in the classroom, so they may not hear the office phone and it may take a few minutes for someone to get to the door.

**Drop-off Tips!**

Prior to the first day of school it’s helpful if you talk with your child about your new morning/drop-off routine with your child. Establish a goodbye routine with them and when you leave them, show them that you are confident that they are going to be safe and happy. The more you show you are worried about your child being ok, the more they feel like maybe they’re not ok! Our teachers are trained to help ease a child’s separation from their family. Most times, a child will calm more quickly and get involved with peers when their family is not around. Never slip away without telling your child good-bye and reassuring him/her/they that you will return. If you have concerns about your child’s adjustment or want to check on your child, we are happy to help with that.

Some children’s literature to help with separation anxiety:

The Kissing Hand—Audrey Penn

I Miss You Stinky Face—Lisa McCourt

Llama, llama Misses Mama—Anna Dewdney

**Pick-up**

On **Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays**, pick-up will only occur through the carpool area. We ask that you remain in your car until you see a teacher bring your child out. RUJEC staff are not permitted to fasten children into car-seats so you will need to do that as quickly as possible so we can move the line along. On **Fridays**, we encourage everyone to meet us at 12:40 in the sanctuary for *Ta’am shel Shabbat.* After the program, you may accompany your child into the classroom for the closing circle. If you do not attend *Ta’am shel Shabbat*, you may join your child in the classroom at 12:55, or you can remain in the car and we will bring them out through the carpool area.

Pick-up time is 12:00 for students in the two’s class who have chosen not to stay for lunch and 1:00 for all other students. (we start pick-up at 12:50) It is important that you pick up your child on time. It is very difficult for a child to watch everyone else leave and be the only one left behind. Please know that if you have an unavoidable delay that is out of your control, we will make sure your child is reassured and made very comfortable and we understand that there are sometimes extenuating circumstances that can’t be avoided.

Our staff sometimes have other responsibilities that require them to leave as soon as school ends. After 3 late pick-ups, a charge of $5 for each 5-minute increment will be added to your monthly tuition bill.

Each child will be signed in and out by staff. Please remember to let us know the name of any person picking up your child if it is not a parent. This is required by Virginia regulations for early childhood programs.

The doors will be locked at approximately 9:15 after carpool delivery. Admission may be obtained by buzzing the office. We will ask for identification from visitors we do not know.

Children will only be released to registered parents or to persons the parents have listed on the release form in the child’s file. We must have written authorization for any changes. You may write us a note or send an email for a one-time permission for someone who is not on your release form. If there is a last minute change in who will be picking up your child, please call the directors to authorize the change. Valid identification will be requested at time of pick-up for anyone the staff does not know.

Clothing

Children are encouraged to wear play clothes and closed-toe shoes. Daily activities include active and messy play, and the children should be comfortable enough to enjoy themselves without worrying about getting dirty and stained.

We don’t always wear smocks, as they can be cumbersome and sometimes create more mess than they prevent. Please do not send your child to school in something that will leave you heartbroken if it comes home stained. DRESS FOR MESS is our motto!

**Sandals, jellies, crocs, and clogs are unsafe for outdoor play**. Some jewelry can present a safety hazard as it can get caught on play equipment, so it is best left at home. Please consider your child’s skills at dressing and undressing for the bathroom when dressing for class. Buttons and snaps should be ones that they can work themselves. Outdoor clothing, including boots, mittens and gloves should also be easy for children to manage. We want to encourage children to work toward becoming independent and we don’t want to make it more difficult for them.

**We go outside almost every day. Please dress your child appropriately.**

If your child is too sick to go outside, they are considered to be too sick to be in school.

Please write your child’s name on all sweaters, jackets, coats, hats, scarves, caps, snow pants, boots, mittens, etc. A child that recognizes his or own clothes at home often does not recognize them when they are thrown in with a lot of other look-alike items.

Each child needs to have an extra set of clothing in case it becomes necessary to change him/her. Please keep a complete change of clothing in your child’s backpack. If your child comes home wearing these extra clothes, please be sure to put a fresh set in the backpack the next day. Please keep these clothes updated for seasonal and size appropriateness. When potty-training, a few extra sets is a great idea!

Items from Home

It is important for some children to bring a transitional item (toy, blanket, or favorite stuffed animal) from home. We recognize and respect that need. Other than that, we discourage bringing items from home. We will help the child transition from bringing the special item into the class to leaving it in the backpack. Sharing a personal toy is difficult for a child and we cannot be responsible for its getting lost or broken. No toy guns, swords or any other toy weapons will be allowed. Teachers will on occasion ask for something particular to be brought to school. We appreciate your paying attention to these requests which are made via the daily emails.

Discipline

When adults interact with children, they play and converse with them as partners. When adults manage children, they retain the upper hand by giving instructions and letting the children know what to expect. While prevention of a problem is an efficient short-term approach to discipline, encouraging children to solve problems for themselves accomplishes more in the long run because of the opportunities it provides.

When dealing with conflict, we always try to keep the child's developmental characteristics in mind. Preschoolers are still quite self-centered. They are also struggling for independence and control. We acknowledge and talk about what each child is feeling and engage the children as active participants in the problem-solving process. The limits we set and expectations we have for our children respect the ages and abilities of the children.

However, there are occasions where our best efforts are not successful in resolving an issue. When this occurs, we will contact parents and ask for help. Usually, parents will understand a situation and offer alternatives which may help in the successful resolution of the issue. Sometimes, a formal parent-teacher conference will be necessary. Any discussions with staff will be strictly confidential. Parents and teachers are partners in a child’s successful experience at school. If it is determined that our program cannot accommodate the special needs of a child, s/he will be asked to withdraw from the school.

Snacks

We ask that you provide your child with a water bottle and a small, nutritious snack each day. On Fridays we will provide challah (bread) and grape juice. If possible, snacks should be packed in containers that children can open on their own. We will, of course, help them when needed. Fruit, veggie sticks, pretzels, pirates booty, crackers and a cheese stick, and raisins are examples of snacks that seem to work well. This is meant to be a snack, not a meal, so please pack accordingly.

We are a nut- and peanut-free school. We do not serve these products or anything made on equipment that also produces them. Please remember this when sending food to school.

Lunch Bunch

Children will eat lunch in their own classrooms. Please provide a dairy ornondairy vegetarian, or fish (no shellfish)lunch. NO MEAT AT ALL. We ask that you not send peanut butter or peanut products or anything containing nuts because of allergies. Some suggestions might be: bagel and cream cheese, tuna salad, egg salad, cold cheese pizza, veggie nuggets, jelly and cream cheese or sunbutter. We will not be able to heat or refrigerate anything for your child. If you send a non-nut butter sandwich such as soy, please make a note so we know not to “quarantine” the food.

Here is a link to a great little Bento Box that makes packing a variety of foods easy

<https://www.amazon.com/Bentgo%C2%AE-Kids-Bento-Style-5-Compartment-Lunch/dp/B00PKNO7LK/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=bentgo+kids+lunch+box&qid=1689091740&sr=8->3

Birthdays

Children love to celebrate their birthdays. You are welcome to bring a special snack to celebrate your child’s birthday. Please check with your child’s teacher regarding allergies in the class. If possible, we encourage you to bring treats that everyone in the class can enjoy.

Another meaningful way to celebrate your child’s birthday is to give a gift of a book or special toy to your child’s classroom. If you wrap the gift, it can be opened in class. It will be a special time for your child. Please ask your child’s teacher or the director for some suggestions of appropriate items the class would enjoy. We welcome you into the classroom to read to the class and celebrate with us.

Please be sensitive when extending invitations. We request that invitations to parties be sent through the mail unless the whole class is invited. The same is true with Thank You cards. It is an appreciated courtesy and we would not want to make any child feel uncomfortable.

Donations

As a not-for-profit school, RUJEC welcomes donations. We are especially interested in toys made from natural materials that are noncommercial in nature and books. If you are not sure what to buy, please feel free to email the classroom teacher or director. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Visitations and Conferences

Parents may set up a time to visit & observe. If the teachers are not free to talk with you, please understand that the children come first during class time; they will be happy to talk with you after class time. Confidentiality issues prohibit teachers from discussing many matters when others are present.

Due to class size and the ratio of children to adults being a large component of a quality program, it is not possible to bring friends or siblings to stay in the classroom with your child.

Optional parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled prior to Winter Break. A teacher or parent may set up additional conferences at any time during the year as needed.

Any special needs and/or problems should be reported to the teachers before the child enters the program. If problems arise during the year, parents may feel free to call the teacher to discuss the matter or to arrange a conference.

During the year, please notify us of any special events in your child’s life (e.g. birth of a new baby, a special vacation, hospital stay) so we may help him/her adjust by means of stories, discussions, etc.

Parent Participation

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom. Any special talents, abilities, hobbies, etc. among our parents/grandparents can be a great contribution to our classroom experiences. Please let us know if you have something you would like to share. We will also, on occasion, ask for help to plan holiday events. Many hands make for a light load and it’s a great way to meet people!

Outside of classroom time and board positions, the school can always use parent volunteers for other help, such as administrative tasks.

Several parent/child functions are held throughout the year. We ask that you attend with your child. If you cannot attend, grandparents, aunts, uncles or a family friend are welcome to join your child. It is difficult for a child to be without her/his “own” adult when everyone else has someone.

A solid partnership between parents and school is how we plan to assure a fantastic experience for the RUJEC children.

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” **Fred Rogers**

“Play is the work of children.” **Maria Montessori**

*‘Play turns out to be stunningly essential in childhood, it’s like love sunshine and broccoli all juiced together.”* ***Lenore Skenazy***