

## **SJCC Seattle: Who We Are**

Jewish, Reggio-Emilia-inspired, relationship-based school where all members (children, families, teachers, leadership team) build shared meaning together every day. The emotional well-being of all members is essential to the success of our school, both as a place of learning and a place of business.

Values we hold include: co-constructing meaning among all members; building and maintaining quality relationships; deepening current inquiry into what defines “excellence” in an early childhood school.

### **What this looks like in our school:**

\*Collaboration between teachers and leadership team to create and confirm the overall educational philosophy (Reggio-Emilia, Judaic, and relationship-based inquiry).

\*Supervision for teachers and leadership team within a relationship-based model, in which “strengths are emphasized and vulnerabilities are partnered.”

\*Maintaining for all staff and faculty a “holding place to manage stress and the powerful emotions often elicited from our work with families;” this is the goal of reflective supervision for teachers and leadership team members at all levels.

\*Promoting and maintaining high-quality services, using appropriate documentation and assessment.

\*Supporting the growth of a “culture of childhood” in the school and local community

\*Building quality relationships with families that deepen over time, utilizing home visits, looping with teachers, frequent family meetings and community gatherings, and maintaining an open-door policy for family input. This includes providing families with clear access points and appropriate channels of communication.

\*Collaboration with the larger leadership team (Seattle and MI) to ensure mutuality of shared goals, commitment to evolving growth and change, commitment to reflection, and a shared setting of standards for faculty.

\*Commitment to regular, ongoing meetings between all members of our team (teachers and leadership team members, including-- at times-- Executive Team members) in which we are all expected to share vulnerabilities as well as successes; to re-visit difficult moments within our relationships with each other in order to grow as professionals; and to touch on our larger, shared vision even as we sit amidst the details of the day-to-day.

### **Qualities we are cultivating in our team:**

\*Capacity to reflect, by which we mean stepping back from the immediate experience to sort through thoughts and feelings about what one is observing and doing with children and families. Being able to examine one's own thoughts and feelings about the experience, including taking into account our past experiences, values and expectations.

\*Experience with playful, inquiry-based classroom work with very young children, with a developmental and ideally Reggio-inspired lens.

\*Warmth, curiosity, passion, open-mindedness, and ability to engage in creative conflict with bravery and thoughtfulness.

\*A well-established “professional self” in which there is an active commitment to ongoing supervision and mentoring.

(quotes from *The Zero to Three Center for Program Excellence* and *Bambini: The Italian Approach to Infant/Toddler Care*)