



Susan Hoppenfeld
Director, Karen & Gary Simkin Family
Child Development Centre

Susan has been an Early Childhood Educator for over twenty five years. Before coming to the JCC she was the Family and Youth Program Coordinator at the Vancouver Art Gallery. A highlight of her time there was being a part of bringing the first North American exhibition of documentation from Reggio Emilia, *The Hundred Languages of Children* to Vancouver. This marked the beginning of a shift to deepen her play-based practice as she began to explore way of constructing curriculum based on the interests of children.

Susan is also an instructor in the Early Childhood Care and Education Department at Vancouver Community College and offers talks and workshops to parents, colleagues and students in and around Vancouver. Her eclectic approach to early childhood education integrates current research with best practices in British Columbia.

“Play is the most complete educational process of the mind, and is nature’s magic device for ensuring that each individual becomes self-educated. Play may be described as a spontaneous, creative, desired research activity carried out for its own sake. It is motivated by innate curiosity and inquiry. It is the expression of children’s urge to find out and discover for themselves how to live, how to be.”

—Neville Scarfe, UBC



Membership Benefits

Take advantage of our fabulous membership benefits.

- Up to 30% discount on all registered programs
- Priority registration for all programs
- Unlimited access to the fitness centre and our 25 metre pool
- Free parking
- and so much more



Testimonials

“My daughter is eager to go to school every morning and I love hearing about what she is learning at the end of the day.”

“I really am appreciative of the teachers in our class. I know how dedicated and hard-working they are and am comforted in knowing my child is there.”

“I feel like my child is in fabulous hands. I love the warm feeling I get from all the teachers.”

The Karen & Gary Simkin Family Child Development Centre

is fully licensed by the Province of BC. We meet the strictest standards for health, safety and cleanliness, teacher/child ratio and teacher qualifications.

The Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver

The JCCGV, part of a network of over 250 Jewish Community Centres in Canada and the USA, is an inclusive organization reflecting the diversity of Vancouver. We welcome all families. Our mission is to provide leadership in culture, recreation, education and social activities enabling individuals and families to achieve and enhance a positive identification with Jewish Life and Israel, and to develop good citizenship and a sense of community.



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Our doors are always open.
To arrange to a visit please contact
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Karen & Gary Simkin Family CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

We welcome all families!



What makes early childhood education at the JCC unique?

All programs at the Karen and Gary Simkin Child Development Centre share the same philosophy of learning through play

Whether it's a morning preschool or a full-day daycare, the same rigour is present around curriculum development. Our licensed teachers nurture and provide care and education for your children, building relationships of trust and security. We believe that your children's growing capacity for kindness and compassion, creativity and critical thinking skills are the foundation for our future.

Our curriculum is built around your children's interests

When the curriculum reflects your child's interests they feel a sense of belonging and empowerment. Their potential for learning is greatly heightened. Inspired by the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy and now an integral part of the new *Early Learning Framework* from the British Columbia Ministry of Education, this philosophy of early learning is based on the image of the child as competent, curious and capable. Photographs and text in each room tell stories about what children are learning.

With individual care & attention, your children flourish

Children learn in a variety of ways. Our multi-aged groupings invite children to move through their day based on their personality and abilities. Whether its free play, group time, snack, gym or outdoor play, children get the individual care and attention that they need to flourish.

Children are immersed in the richness of Jewish traditions & values

Holidays are celebrated through stories, songs, art, games and of course cooking! Hebrew is integrated into our daily schedule. We come together as a community each Friday for Shabbat in the Schachter Atrium of the JCC with family and friends. Visits to Louis Brier Seniors' Centre and the Weinberg Residence are highlights or our intergenerational programming.

The arts are used as a language for learning and self-expression

Children express their thoughts, feelings and ideas about the world through drawing, painting, collage and sculpture. Dressing up and pretending, constructing new worlds with blocks and puppet play are just a few of the many ways that children are encouraged to imagine.

Science, math and literacy are integrated into programs in a hands-on, age appropriate way

In science, children explore & experiment, in math they sort & classify, in English they tell, write & illustrate their own stories. Literacy is an essential part of our learning environments, and each room is rich in books for different ages, abilities and interests. The alphabet and early reading skills are introduced through play.

Physical activity is an important part of each day

Whether its time in the gym, dance studio, or on the playground, children challenge themselves physically each day.

It's all at the JCC!

Visits to the Sidney & Gertrude Zack Gallery, The Jewish Museum and the Isaac Waldman Library enrich and expand learning. Early childhood specialists in science, dance, theatre and music join us during class time.

We value empathy and respect for others

We are participants in the *Seeds of Empathy*, a national project promoting social and emotional competence by teaching children about infant development, diversity, respecting and valuing others. Our teachers have studied *Ethical Start*, a curriculum for children, parents and teachers based on the ancient Jewish text, *Pirkei Avot*, teachings of our fathers.



Preschool Programs

Shalom Aleph 2 year olds (2 days)
Mo & We 9:00–10:30am or 11am–12:30pm
Tu & Th 9:00–10:30am or 11am–12:30pm

Shabbat Shalom 2 year olds (1 day)
Fri 9:00–10:30am or 11am–12:30pm
These programs are specially designed for two-year-olds and may be your child's first experience in an early childhood environment. Maximum enrollment is 12 children with two teachers and one parent volunteer to assist. Shalom Aleph and Shabbat Shalom classes may be combined for a 3 day week.

Shalom Bet 3 & 4 year olds (5 days)
Mo-Fr 9:00 – 11:30am
Children in this 3-4 multi-aged group spend their mornings in small groups based on their interests. Free play, group time, snack, outdoor play or specially scheduled sessions for art, Hebrew, music and sports offer children opportunities to flourish in this early childhood environment.

Registration

For registration for all licensed Preschool Programs, please see our website, www.jccgv.com for details.

Daycares

Shalom B'raysheet Toddler Daycare 18–36 mo
Max 12 with 4:1 teacher/ratio
Mo-Fr 7:45am – 5:30pm

Shalom Gan Yeladim Daycare 3–5 yrs
Max 20 with 8:1 child/teacher ratio
Mo-Fr 7:45am-5:30pm

Shalom Yeladim Daycare 3–5 yrs
Max 16 with 8:1 child/teacher ratio
Mo-Fr 7:45am-5:30pm

These full-day programs offer children warm and nurturing, stimulating and challenging environments rich in materials to spark imagination, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning. Teachers develop the daily schedule in response to children's needs and interests. Whether it's free play - indoors and out, snack, nap/quiet time or specially scheduled sessions in art, Hebrew, music and sports, we strive to provide a home like environment in these multi-aged groupings. Enrichment classes in swimming, soccer, sport ball, ballet and yoga are also available.

Registration

To add your child's name to our Daycare Waitlist, please complete the Waitlist Form online @ www.jccgv.com. You may process the completed form at Reception with a \$15.00 non refundable fee.

