

Dear Early Childhood Families,

The safety and security of our children at the Sari Isdaner Early Childhood Center remains our highest priority. We are deeply committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment where our children can learn, grow, and thrive.

Over the past year, an additional security guard has been stationed at the ECC entrance during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. This coverage was initially made possible through the national Tepper Grant. Although the grant ended in March, JFED Security and the Katz JCC have reallocated funds to continue this added layer of protection.

After careful consideration, we have decided to maintain this important security coverage for the upcoming school year.

What this means for families:

- An additional security guard will continue to be stationed at the ECC entrance during arrival and dismissal.
- A **security fee of \$500 per family for the school year, or \$50 per month**, will help offset a portion of the cost.
- The fee will not cover the full expense. The ECC, Katz JCC, and Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey will continue to partner in funding the remaining cost.
- We will also continue to explore grants, fundraising, and other funding opportunities to help reduce the long-term impact on families.

We understand that any additional cost can be a concern, and this decision was not made lightly. Many area synagogues, early childhood centers, and Jewish day schools have implemented similar security measures and related fees. While we have been fortunate not to require a separate fee in the past, this step is necessary to responsibly maintain the level of security our community expects and deserves.

We also want families to feel informed and confident about the many layers of security in place throughout the ECC and Katz JCC campus. Representatives from JFED Security will join us at Back-to-School Night to share additional information and answer questions. If you have a pressing question before then, please feel free to reach out, and I will share it directly with our security team.

Thank you for your understanding, continued support, and partnership. Together, we remain committed to keeping our ECC community safe, strong, and welcoming for every child and family.

Warmly,

Beth Segal
Interim Executive Director

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Director of Early Childhood Education

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