The land of Israel is described as a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey.

— Deuteronomy 8.8

Sheva means seven in Hebrew. The number seven has deep roots in Jewish tradition. Sheva is also the JCC Movement’s new early learning framework. Its seven core elements are firmly rooted in the latest research on child development.

7 Species nurtured the ancient Israelites

1. Children as Constructivist Learners
2. Early Childhood Directors as Visionaries
3. Early Childhood Educators as Professionals
4. Families as Engaged Partners
5. Environments as Inspiration for Inquiry
6. Discover CATCH as Sh’mirat HaGuf (taking care of our bodies)
7. Israel as the Story of the Jewish People

Early childhood education has been a centerpiece of JCCs for almost a century, and historically it has been a gateway into JCC programming for families with young children. Just as the early years are a critical time for a child’s individual development, the time spent in early childhood centers is also a critical time in a family’s identity formation and connection to their JCC.

The success of early childhood education depends not only on the educator, but on the combined efforts of everyone involved in the program, including the children, families, and the program directors.

OUR GOAL: to raise the level of excellence in the ECE programs offered by JCCs by learning together through Sheva learning communities. Sheva learning communities also use the Four Species of Sukkot.

wheat
barley
vine
fig
pomegranate
(date) honey
willow
citron
myrtle
palm