



Tot Shabbat FAQs

Many families have expressed interest in attending our Tot Shabbat program at the Shaar, but have had questions about the program. We hope these answer some of your concerns:

Do I need to be a member of the Shaar to bring my child to Tot Shabbat?

No. Tot Shabbat is open to any family, whether or not they are Shaar members.

Do I need to RSVP to attend Tot Shabbat?

No. Tot Shabbat happens every Saturday morning, so just show up whenever you can make it.

Can I stay with my child at Tot Shabbat, or do I need to drop him or her off?

Parents are more than welcome to stay at Tot Shabbat. Our Tefillah circle is a great time for parents and kids to sing and play together in a fun Shabbat environment. However, if parents prefer to attend services in the main sanctuary or the chapel, they can drop off their children over age 2.

Can I bring my baby who is under age 2?

Yes, children under 2 are welcome, as long as a parent or other adult is present.

Do I need to dress up? Does my child need to wear anything specific?

The most important thing is that kids feel comfortable and excited to come to Tot Shabbat. However, kids (and parents) are invited to dress in festive Shabbat attire, in accordance with the special day. This does not need to be something stiff and formal, but it should be a step above regular play clothes.

What time does Tot Shabbat start?

We begin at 10:30AM with open play time, and then our Tefillah Circle begins at about 11:00AM. Tot Shabbat ends when the main services end, at approximately 11:45AM. Children who have been dropped off are escorted into the main sanctuary a few minutes before services end.

Does my child need any prior Jewish knowledge?

No. Our Tefillah Circle includes some small parts of Jewish liturgy, but focuses mostly on singing, movement, and having a good time. There is no prior knowledge required, but you'll be surprised how quickly the little ones do learn the songs and prayers that we say each week!

Do we need to come every week?

No. Come as often as you can. The kids will get a lot out of simply being there, even sporadically. Of course, we hope that they will love it so much that you'll come every week!

Will Tot Shabbat continue throughout the summer?

No. Tot Shabbat will run through the end of June, and then break for July and August. We hope that you'll join us for Shabbat in the Park every Saturday afternoon throughout the summer at 4:00 PM in Murray Hill Park.

I really don't need to be a Shaar member to attend?

No! Just come! Our goal is to foster a warm and energetic environment of young kids and their parents celebrating Shabbat together. Whether you've never been to the Shaar or whether your family has been with the synagogue for generations, you and your child's presence at Tot Shabbat will add to our Shabbat atmosphere.

Questions? Suggestions? Please contact Maharat Rachel at rkf@thshaar.org or 514-937-9474 ext. 174.

See you at Tot Shabbat!