



# Beth Emeth Early Childhood Center

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## SHABBAT SING: COMMUNITY, JOY, INQUIRY, AND RAINBOWS

If you come visit our school on a Friday morning, you will find that we stop everything to join together in the sanctuary. Shabbat Sing is a weekly tradition filled with singing, learning, and connecting. While each class makes time to experience their own unique celebration of Shabbat, Friday mornings are reserved for community and being all together. The Rabbi and I lead the children in songs and prayers, often accompanied by Morah Neta on the guitar. Together we sing some fun and silly Shabbat songs paired with traditional Shabbat prayers. If the children are smiling, laughing, dancing, singing and praying, the sweetness of Shabbat is felt, and that is the primary goal.

There is a lot of thought that goes into giving the children an authentic Shabbat experience. A mini-ark within the actual ark holds child sized Torahs so that the Shabbat child of the week can feel empowered to carry and march around with the Torah. In fact, the mini-ark and Torahs now permanently reside there to invite children who attend services at any point to carry a Torah alongside the adults. The prayers we sing together are the prayers that are sung in Friday evening services so when the children attend, they will have a sense of familiarity and belonging. And while there is not a sermon, teaching mitzvot is a weekly occurrence as well as inviting children's thoughts and questions.

For example, after singing the traditional song "Bim Bam" together, a child asked us "What does that song talk to G-d about?" The Rabbi answered his question, to which he asked another question. This question stumped the Rabbi (He asked what the "cheeriebeeriebeerie" part meant) to which she honestly replied "that's a very excellent question. I don't know, I'll have to ask ..." The child replied "and then maybe you'll know some more because I have a lot of questions." I couldn't have agreed with the Rabbi's response more when she said to him "having a lot of questions is the best thing you can have!" This is exactly the kind of mentality we aspire to foster in our youngest citizens.



Our weekly Shabbat Sing is pure joy!

Often times the best thing about an experience is the unexpected such as the above example. Another one of my favorite "unplanned" things that happened, and continues to happen

at Shabbat Sing, is the rainbows. More specifically, the children's observations, curiosity and excitement about the rainbows. If you've ever been in the sanctuary on a sunny day, you are familiar with the rainbows that can

be found all around the sanctuary when the sun shines through the stained-glass windows depicting the stories of the Torah. I can't help but think of what a wonderful metaphor that is: Just as rainbows are formed when the sun sheds light on the Torah stories in the windows, I want to help shed light on the values of the Torah, and Judaism, in a way that is interesting, thought provoking, and "colorful" for the children.



Rainbows happen!

At this age, the most important thing I want the children to understand about the Torah is that it teaches us to be the best people we can be. At Shabbat Sing, I have chosen to shed light on this through reading children's stories where characters in the book face some kind of moral, social, or emotional dilemma that they learn to overcome. I often find inspiration for the mitzvah or value of the week by visiting classrooms and seeing what's happening. The children come sit up on the bimah and get transformed into a world of frogs that need to learn to share, a cat that inspires us to be flexible when unexpected things happen, a boy that doesn't give up, a group of animal friends that make an effort to take care of their sick friend bear, or an elephant that discovers the ability to speak up to ask for what he needs, to name a few. My hope is that the kinds of people G-d wants us to be is brought to light and made real for them weekly from many different perspectives.

Painting a thoughtful, colorful and memorable picture of Shabbat, Jewish values and the words of the Torah for the children at such a young age, is important on their journey to becoming life-long Jewish learners: a core value for us here at BEECC. Come join us on a Friday morning and experience the joy, questions, and rainbows for yourself!

-- Robin

Beth Emeth Early Childhood Center  
Reggio-Inspired,  
Jewishly-Guided

### Registration

Registration is now open for  
the 2018-19 School Year!

Early drop-off and extended day options available.

Contact us today!

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