

# B'NAI ISRAEL SCHILIT NURSERY SCHOOL

## 2024–2025 Program Information

Thank you for your interest in B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School!  
Should you have any questions, please be in touch with  
Rebecca Ravski, Early Childhood Education Director,  
at [rebeccar@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:rebeccar@bnaiisraelcong.org).

### 1. What programs is the B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School offering for the 2024-2025 school year? Here is a listing with descriptions of all of our school's offerings:

#### INFANTS UP UNTIL TWO-YEARS-OLD CLASSES

##### Play @ B'nai

**Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 AM**

Children will have a wonderful opportunity to engage with other children and explore classroom materials while learning songs and other fun experiences.

##### Play @ B'nai: Taste of Shabbat

**Fridays, 9:30–10:00 AM**

**Drop-In/Free of Charge**

Join us Friday mornings for stories, songs, and a snack that celebrate Shabbat! Connect with our families during this special time of the week. This is a drop-in program, so you can simply show up when your schedule allows.

*Registration for Play @ B'nai programs will open in Fall 2024.*

##### Tikvah Twos

**(Children 2-years-old between September 2024–January 2025)**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**9:30–11:00 AM, September–December, accompanied by an adult**

**9:30–11:30 AM, January–June, unaccompanied by an adult**

Our Tikvah Twos program is a full year class designed for children turning two between September 2024 and January 2025. Children are acclimated to our nursery school through developmentally appropriate music, art, creative play, movement and Judaics. We help children make the transition from home to school with a familiar adult participating at the beginning of the school year. In January 2025, the students will attend class independently. The following year, the child will be eligible to register for one of our two-year-old classes.



## TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

**Children must be two years of age by September 1**

**3-day (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM)**

**5-day (Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM)**

**Full-day option until 6:00 PM available every day for two-year-old classes**

Through a variety of hands-on learning experiences and in a group setting, our twos explore their world and gain a sense of self-confidence in a nurturing environment. Our goal is to provide a trusting setting where children new to school will be empowered to develop independence and view themselves as capable. Opportunities for learned autonomy include washing their own hands, being responsible for their belongings and classroom materials, putting on their own coats, and pouring their own water as well as making choices and learning scripts that help them enhance their negotiation skills during play. Within the two's program we take time to introduce and familiarize the children with the basic concepts of Shabbat and Jewish Holidays. The two-year-old program is a wonderful time for them to begin developing their fine motor, social and cognitive skills through explorations that include sensory investigation, block building, imaginative play, art work, puzzles and games of matching and sorting.



Gross motor skills are enhanced on our playground and bike room by climbing, running, jumping and pedaling. We support and teach children to ask questions beginning at two years of age so that they can start to develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills.

## THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

**Our three-year-old children attend our 5-Day program**

**Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM or 2:00 PM**

**Full-day option until 6:00 PM is available every day for three-year-old classes**

Our three-year-old children flourish through a curriculum that provides a multitude of opportunities for development in all areas, social, cognitive, gross and fine motor skills. Opportunities abound for hands on experiences with building, art, creative expression, sensory materials and beginning literacy skills. We expand on group work, focusing on the development of expressive language and social scripts. We continue to build on their understanding and experiences with Shabbat and other Jewish Holidays as the children participate in the many blessings, expand their knowledge about the history and learn about traditions and *mitzvahs* in everyday Jewish life. Giving the children access to many different materials allows them to learn as resourceful individuals with a natural sense of curiosity. Our three-year-old program is geared to help foster and further build their skills sets.



## FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

**Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Full-day option until 6:00 PM available every day for four-year-old classes**

Children in the four-year-old program engage in meaningful play where the activities are centered around the children's interests, bringing a natural motivation to learn. Fostering independence, curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, children are guided by our skilled teachers to explore classroom materials and the natural world, building knowledge through cooperation and the expression of their thoughts and ideas. Children in the four's program also engage in long-term explorations based on their discoveries and inquiries. Through documenting and journaling their experience, the children extend the process of these investigations. Nurturing these skills, our children become confident, inquisitive, and self-guided learners who are prepared for the next step of academic and social development.



## 2. What is the payment schedule? When do I begin making payments?

Upon enrollment, you will be asked to make a \$75 (nonrefundable) registration fee and a \$500 deposit. The rest of the payment schedule will begin on July 30, 2024 and finish by April 30, 2025. Our registration system allows you to tailor your own payment schedule. Enrollment is contingent on payment in full or setting up a payment plan before July 30, 2024.

### 3. If I put in a deposit, am I able to change my mind?

The \$500 deposit is 100% refundable by Friday, May 17, 2024 and 50% refundable by Friday, June 14, 2024. We are not able to provide any refunds after June 14, 2024 for withdrawal from school.

### 4. Is synagogue membership required to attend your school?

Synagogue membership is not required to attend the Schilit Nursery School although it can greatly enhance your experience. We hope that the Nursery School experience will be a springboard to a lifetime of fulfillment for your family in our congregational community, but membership is not required. Synagogue members also pay a discounted tuition rate. All Schilit Nursery School families are encouraged to participate in our Synagogue Membership Incentive Program which offers discounts off our B'nai Israel Synagogue membership at the following rates:

Two's Year – 90 percent synagogue membership discount

Three's Year – 75 percent synagogue membership discount

Four's Year – 50 percent synagogue membership discount

Any remaining year a child is enrolled in BISNS – 40 percent synagogue membership discount

For any questions related to synagogue membership and costs, please contact Hal Ossman, B'nai Israel Executive Director, ([hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org)).

### 5. Are scholarships available to help cover the cost of tuition?

We are pleased to be able to offer a limited number of scholarships to families demonstrating a significant financial need, which would otherwise preclude them from participating in a Jewish nursery school experience. Visit [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/bisnsscholarship](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/bisnsscholarship) to learn more.

### 6. What are some program highlights of the 2024–2025 year you are able to share?

Just to name a few, here are some unique highlights of BISNS:

- **Flexible Options:** We are open every day from 7:30 AM–6:00 PM with several options so you can find what will fit your family's needs. You can register for just early care, late care or a half or full day option. For our youngest students from infants, to transitional two's through the two's classes, you can even participate one, two, or three days a week! We know how important flexibility and options are when choosing a nursery school.
- **Child-Centered Philosophy:** We have a hands on, play-based approach to early childhood education. Guided by age-appropriate learning goals, our child-centered philosophy follows the interests of the children for more authentic learning experiences.
- **Community-Based:** Joining our nursery school gives you access to all of the wonderful family programs of our entire synagogue community. Our clergy are accessible and take part in our nursery school curriculum.
- **Facility Highlights:** Our large synagogue provides ample spaces for all kinds of exploring, including our popular pond the children love to visit as well as a fully mirrored movement room for dance and yoga. B'nai Israel has a large gymnasium we call the "Bike Room" filled with gross motor toys. There is plenty of room to run around no matter what the weather is doing outside. We also have a designated Discovery Room filled with opportunities for guided exploration, making observations, predictions, creative thinking, testing theories, sharing thoughts and ideas, and using motor skills to achieve goals.
- **Special Programming:** While every day is special at BISNS, we are excited to offer several special events throughout the year, such as Truck Day, Israel Fun Day, a Purim Parade and Carnival, a BISNS Art Show, and more.
- **Parent Involvement:** It won't just be your children making new friends, our parent and caregiver community is tight-knit and active in creating an inclusive environment for everyone to get to know each other! We have a Nursery School Parent Association that plans parent nights out, social activities, and volunteer opportunities. Parents and families are invited into our school programs often, including special "Shabbat family" days and other holiday programming.
- **Long History:** Our program has been running for decades and some of our parents were previously children in the school! Our commitment to providing the very best in early childhood education and preparing our students for kindergarten and beyond is integrated into everything we do.



**Rebecca Ravski, Early Childhood Director**

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