

Why Choose a Jewish Early Childhood Program?

Education

The high quality educational setting in a Jewish preschool prepares children for a lifetime of learning.

Values

Jewish values and concepts are interwoven throughout the day and apply to all aspects of a child's life.

Tradition

Jewish holiday and life cycle celebrations are experienced in a way that is complementary to each family's practice.

Identity

Children develop long-lasting, positive emotional connections with Shabbat, Torah and the Land of Israel, strengthening their Jewish identity.

Spirituality

Children are encouraged to think about, ask questions about and develop their own relationship with God.

Friendship

Children make friends and become part of the Jewish community locally and worldwide.

Print your school's contact information here:

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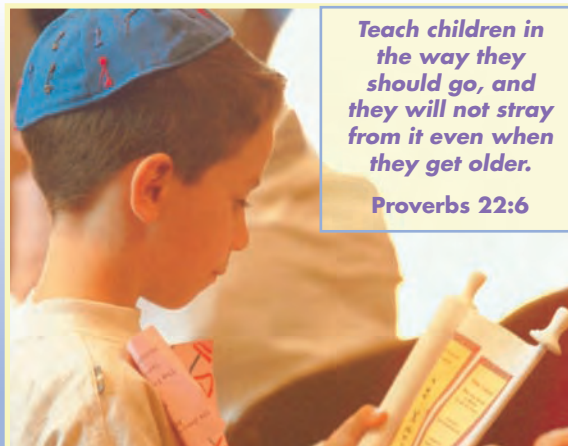
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*Teach children in
the way they
should go, and
they will not stray
from it even when
they get older.*

Proverbs 22:6

A Parent's Guide to Choosing

A Jewish Early Childhood Program



*Each child brings a unique
blessing into the world. The warm,
caring environment of a Jewish
early childhood program nurtures
that blessing and helps it flourish.*

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Benefits For My Family

You and your child will be inspired by an environment in which:

Intellectual development and curiosity are highly valued: Your child will be ready to enter any learning environment with a love of learning and readiness to discover.

Your child will develop a strong Jewish identity while flourishing in a safe, healthy and educationally enriched environment.

Our school's staff, as well as the sponsoring organization's clergy and other professionals, will be responsive to your family's concerns and questions.

Your family will build friendships and celebrate together with other families.

You can participate in child development and Jewish life skills learning programs with other parents.

Information and guidance about opportunities for continuing Jewish education in our community will be available.

Things to look for in a Jewish Early Childhood Program

Jewish Values Guide Behavior

Look for a *tzedakah* (charity) box in the classroom; flyers showing ways families can participate in social justice opportunities (*tikkun olam*—repairing the world); and teachers who talk to the children with *kavod* (respect).

Children's work is displayed and reflects a celebration of Jewish life

Holiday related art work is visible and shows each child's individuality.

The children have opportunities to joyfully experience Shabbat and Jewish traditions

Blessings are recited before eating and Shabbat celebrations. Holiday related objects such as a shofar or a menorah might be in the classroom; Jewish music is played in the classroom; and Jewish books are on the children's book shelf.

There is a presence of Israel in the classroom

Look for the flag, maps of Israel, pictures of Israelis, books about Israel and Israeli music.

Torah stories are part of the children's experience

Look for an Ark, artwork or character puppets from various Torah stories.

Hebrew can be found throughout the classroom

Items might be labeled in Hebrew, or Hebrew music is played in the classroom.

Ten Questions to Ask the Director

1. What makes your school an excellent Jewish early childhood program?
2. What is the educational philosophy of your school?
3. What Jewish concepts and values will my child be exposed to in your program?
4. How does the school view diversity in Jewish practices among its families?
5. How are parents involved in the school?
6. What types of adult learning and family programming exist outside of the classroom?
7. In what ways will clergy and Jewish professionals be involved with the school?
8. How is your program inclusive of children with special needs?
9. How will we communicate about my child's development?
10. What accreditations does the school currently hold?