



Kindergarten Curriculum

לחיים – *L'Chaim* - To Life!

The Community Synagogue's curriculum uses a value-based approach to Jewish education. In addition to the components of teaching Jewish festivals and Hebrew, Jewish studies are organized in order to enable our students to embrace seven key values that we see as central to Judaism. These key values are:

- קדושה - *Kedushah* - Holiness
- תלמוד תורה - *Talmud Torah* - Importance of Study
- קהילה - *Kehillah* - Community
- משפחה - *Mispacha* - Family
- תקון עולם - *Tikkun Olam* - Repairing our World
- אהבת עולם - *Ahavat Olam* - Love of Israel
- כלל ישראל - *Klal Yisrael* - Unity of the Jewish People
- עברית - *Ivrit* - Hebrew Language & Prayer

The kindergarten year serves as an introduction to religious education beginning with the realm of Jewish time. Students will come to know the calendar cycle of holidays and the reason for celebration. Investigating how we observe at home and in the synagogue allows the children to explore new sights and sounds. The Torah is introduced as our most important source of Jewish life through the telling and discussion of its stories. The kindergarten curriculum also focuses on an exploration of the observance of Shabbat. In addition, our kindergarten students will begin to familiarize themselves with the letters of the *alef-bet*. Our kindergarteners will also take part in our weekly Hebrew Through Movement program which introduces Hebrew language in a playful and meaningful way.

Key Goals of the Kindergarten Curriculum:

- ✧ To familiarize students with the names, sounds and appearance of the letters of the *alef-bet*.
- ✧ To familiarize students with key and meaningful words in the Hebrew language.
- ✧ To provide students with a basic understanding of the Jewish holidays with a focus on how the holiday is celebrated both at home and in the synagogue.
- ✧ To teach students about Shabbat, including a basic understanding of how and why we as Jews observe Shabbat.
- ✧ To introduce students to the Torah, its importance in Judaism, and its stories.
- ✧ To introduce students to the synagogue including the people and places which compose The Community Synagogue.