

# FAQS

## WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING IN PRESCHOOL?

A common question that parents often ask is "What will my child be learning in preschool this year?" This seems like a simple question, but it is extremely complex, especially for preschoolers. At first glance, it is almost impossible to actually list it all. We know that this is not the answer that parents want to hear. They want to know specifically about the alphabet, math skills, handwriting, vocabulary development, social skills and pre-reading skills. Truthfully, every child will be learning all of these things but at their own level and speed. We call these developmental stages. We at Congregation Beth El are laying the foundation to learn these academic skills by providing our children the tools they will need to be successful.

## HOW IS MY CHILD'S LEARNING ASSESSED?

We have expectations for what children should be able to accomplish at each age. We set goals for them and develop plans and themes to help us accomplish these goals for each stage of development. Through activities, projects, small group activities, and large group activities, working with the children individually, we are able to assess the children. We fill out progress reports, hold parent-teacher conferences, and communicate with parents on a regular basis.

## WHAT ABOUT PLAY?

This is only a small sample of what your children will learn each and every day. At times it might seem as if "they are just playing", but that is their most important work. When the children play, they develop their creativity. They learn to understand their world and practice skills.



Our curriculum emphasizes the importance of the development of the whole child: socially, emotionally, cognitively, physically, and spiritually. We provide a loving, caring, and nurturing learning environment within a framework rich in Jewish values and traditions.

Learning activities are purposefully planned by our qualified staff to match the developmental stages of each child. The staff emphasizes the learning process taking place rather than the end product. We offer a variety of learning opportunities for each child encouraging imagination, curiosity, and discovery.

We maintain a balance between:

- Individual and group activities, emphasizing positive social interaction.
- Structured and "free choice" time, guided and modeled by the staff.
- A structured schedule and flexibility that allows opportunities for self exploration and respect.
- An academic component is integrated into the curriculum through music, games, songs, manipulatives, and enriching and stimulating activities.
- Jewish holidays, values, and Shabbat are important parts of our curriculum and woven into our daily and weekly activities. We celebrate together as a school through cooking, music, special guests, parent involvement, community events, and school-wide events.



**Congregation Beth El Early Childhood Center**  
**8000 Main Street, Voorhees, NJ 08043**  
**(856) 675-1166**  
**Rabbi Nogah Marshall, Educational Director**  
**Ayelet Mittelman, ECC Principal**



## CONGREGATION BETH EL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

*Where all are welcome and everyone is family!*

### CURRICULUM GUIDE INFANTS - KINDERGARTEN



## WHAT IS MY INFANT LEARNING?

We promote developmentally appropriate practices for our youngest learners. These include: fostering trust and emotional security, developing relationships with adults and peers, working towards self-regulation, communication skills, and opportunities to develop gross and fine motor skills. The classroom is set up with appropriate space for naps, diapering, snacks, and play. Toys are stored for easy access by the students. Children have the opportunity to be taken for walks outside. Music and movement are included in the curriculum.

## WHAT IS MY TODDLER LEARNING?

In both our Young Toddler and Older Toddler classrooms, we work on social, emotional, and cognitive growth. Through exploratory play, circle time, and individual projects, the children continue the development of fine motor skills and verbal expression. The curriculum units include holidays, colors, numbers, shapes, textures, music, dance, and stories. Hebrew language and Jewish values are integrated in the daily curriculum.

## WHAT IS MY 2 YEAR OLD LEARNING?

At the 2 year old level, our children are working on learning to expand their sentences, ask questions, play creatively, and develop vocabulary. They learn to count and classify, and are exposed to letters and numbers. The 2's also focus on name recognition, colors, shapes, superlatives, and concepts of 1 or more. We also work on drawing with a crayon, following good eating habits, and cleaning up after meals. The classrooms include centers to help with exploration such as art, kitchen, library, dramatic play, and transportation. In addition to developing our minds, we work on developing and improving oral motor, gross motor and fine motor skills.



## WHAT IS MY 3 YEAR OLD LEARNING?

At the 3 year old level we work on having our children step away from parallel play towards greater interaction with each other. The children are encouraged to work together as a group during circle time and are beginning to become independent thinkers. The 3's begin to work on critical thinking skills and are exposed to more formal learning experiences including the alphabet, numbers, and reading readiness. Our perceptual skills work includes identifying and naming colors, letters of the alphabet, and numbers 1-10. We also work on recognizing our names in print as well as following and copying simple patterns. Through all of our activities our students work on developing arm-eye, body, and eye-hand coordination.

## WHAT IS MY 4 YEAR OLD LEARNING?

At the 4 year old level, we prepare to enter into Kindergarten. We teach them to sit and attend for longer period of times and to wait patiently. They learn how to recognize and print all of the letters of the alphabet. In addition, they develop their phonemic awareness, a skill necessary to begin to learn to read. The 4's learn to identify all of the letter sounds, practice rhyming, and distinguish words that begin with the same sound. They solve simple mathematical word problems, order numbers, practice graphing, and categorizing. Our students develop their scientific minds through experiments and are learning how to ask and answer questions. The 4's curriculum includes social/emotional goals, reading foundations, writing, math, social studies, science, and Judaica.



## WHAT IS MY KINDERGARTENER LEARNING?

At the Kindergarten level, we are preparing our children to enter into First Grade. The Kindergarten class has the feel of an Elementary School classroom. In Kindergarten, Language Arts proficiency is developed through phonemic awareness, concepts of print, sight word recognition, comprehension, writing conventions, handwriting, and applying writing mechanics. In Math, our children are being introduced to problem solving, counting and sequencing, basic addition, subtraction, money and time. In Science, our children learn and use the following concepts: hypothesizing, observing, recording data, and drawing conclusions. In Social Studies, our students learn how to demonstrate knowledge of physical characteristics of self and others through school, community, and family. In addition, our Kindergarten class infuses Hebrew and Judaica into the curriculum. Our children explore the holidays, learn the Alef-Bet, numbers, months, and days of the week in Hebrew.

## TRANSITION INTO FIRST GRADE

We work closely with the Voorhees Township School District so that our preschool teachers foster essential knowledge to ensure a seamless transition from Kindergarten to First Grade in all school districts.

## SHOULD I ASK QUESTIONS?

I am always happy to talk with you about our curriculum. I encourage you to ask questions and to be involved in your child's education. I value your input and your suggestions. My door is always open so please feel free to visit me to say hello, share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

- Rabbi Nogah Marshall



