

# KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Kindergarten is a transitional year between Pre-K and first grade. It is a time to build independence, responsibility, self-sufficiency, cooperation and a strong sense of community. Our program relies heavily on Jewish values and ethics. We strive for two main goals:

1. "I can do it if I try."
2. "Treat others as I want to be treated."

Our full-day program is interdisciplinary and revolves around the life and experiences of the children in our class, the holidays on the Jewish and secular calendars, and the seasons of the year. With our Reading Street Series, we include a daily use of Big Books, literature, poetry, and whole-group discussions in our program. Reading to the children has been proven to be the key to creating readers and we incorporate stories throughout the day. Writing-to-read is the other half of the story.

Our "Go Math" curriculum combines an extensive use of manipulatives with the "Go Math" program, which uses the calendar and its many components to teach math concepts. Estimation, patterns, adding-in, counting, number recognition, and place value are discovered every day.

These two main parts of our curriculum, Reading Street and Go Math, are always being extended and strengthened by the other disciplines, like Science, Social Studies, and our daily hands-on work with Art and Crafts. All this takes place in a semi-structured, open-ended environment where children play with peers in House, Block, Writing, Toy, Games, and Reading Areas in order to learn and assimilate the world around them. The best learning for a five or six year old is "peer-learning," and we create the time and space for this to occur and develop.

Interwoven throughout our day is the *ruach*, spirit, of who we are and why we are in a Solomon Schechter Day School. The bond of Judaism we share is present in all our activities, and whenever possible, we teach *mitzvot*, *tzedakah*, values, Hebrew, and love for Israel and our people. We sing, speak, dance and create an environment filled with the spirit of Judaism.

The Hebrew language is taught using a thematic curriculum, *Chalav U'D'vash* - Milk & Honey, and Tal Am. This curriculum corresponds, whenever possible, to the General Studies curriculum. Hebrew is taught through song, rhythmic activities, dance, art and stories. In kindergarten the Hebrew alphabet is presented for recognition, and students who are ready are taught to read and write. Among the topics taught are: holiday vocabulary, values vocabulary, blessings, prayers, conversational phrases, the family

unit, parts of the body, numbers, colors, weather, seasons, days of the week, food, animals, and clothing.

Our most important goal is to take a child from wherever he/she may be on the first day in school and help him/her along the path to growth. Our hope is that at the end of the year, the student has a great self-image, has grown by leaps and bounds, and has begun a lifelong love affair with books, school, and Judaism.

## **KINDERGARTEN HEBREW UNIT SUMMARY**

Shabbat is an ongoing concept throughout the year on Fridays. *T'fillot* (prayers) include *Hatikva*, *Mode Ani*, and *Shma*.

Blessings include *Birkat Haetz*, *Birkat HaAdama*, and *Hakol Bedvaro*. *Netilat Yadaim*, *Hamotzie*, and *Birkat ha Mazon*. Calendar and weather are also reviewed throughout the year. Opportunities for Hebrew conversation are integrated with all concepts being taught, i.e., *efo/hiney*, *gadol/katan*, *lemala/lemata*, *ma mi ezeh, ani*, etc.

Introduction to the Aleph Bet is also integrated throughout the year, choosing letters that coincide with vocabulary being taught (beginning sounds). Many Israeli play songs are taught.

### **SAMPLE KINDERGARTEN DAYS**

#### **MONDAY**

9:00-9:30	Math manipulatives
9:30-10:10	Hebrew lesson
10:10-10:40	Music – In class
10:45-11:15	PE
11:15-11:30	Calendar & Today News, children share in class
11:30-12:00	Large group Math
12:00-1:00	Lunch – Books & Puzzles
1:00-2:15	Reading, in cooperates – Theme – Science, Social Studies
2:15-3:00	*Centers Red – Math Blue – Journals/Handwriting Green – Language Brown – Small group play Orange – Computers

#### **TUESDAY**

9:00-9:45	*Centers
9:45-10:00	Calendar – Today's News
10:00-10:15	Snack – Quiet music & story time, teacher directed
10:15-11:00	Hebrew
11:00-11:30	Large group Math
11:30-12:00	Reading (groups)
12:00-1:00	Lunch – Books & Puzzles
1:00-1:30	Recess
1:30-2:00	Centers
2:00-2:30	Tech
2:30-3:00	Whole class Art project

#### **WEDNESDAY**

9:00-9:30	Math man
9:30-10:15	Hebrew
10:15-10:30	Snack – Quiet music and story time, teacher directed
10:30-10:45	Calendar – Today's News
10:45-11:15	PE
11:15-12:00	Reading (groups)

12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-1:15 Theme/Story

1:15-1:45 TIV – Regular Music  
1:45-2:15 Whole group Math  
2:15-3:00 \*Centers

#### THURSDAY

9:00-9:30 Math manipulatives  
9:30-10:00 Large group Math  
10:00-10:15 Snack – Quiet music – Story time  
10:15-11:00 Hebrew lesson  
11:00-11:30 Library  
11:30-12:00 Reading – Groups  
12:00-1:00 Lunch – Book Puzzles  
1:00-1:30 Recess  
1:30-2:15 \*Centers  
2:15-3:00 Art

#### FRIDAY

9:00-9:30 \*Center  
9:30-10:00 Math  
10:00-10:10 Snack – Quiet Music – Story Time  
10:10-11:00 Hebrew Lesson  
11:00-11:30 Reading (groups)  
11:30-12:30 *Kabbalat Shabbat*  
12:30-1:00 Recess  
1:00-1:45 Math – manipulatives

### **KINDERGARTEN GOALS:**

#### HELPFUL GOALS

- To be respectful
- To be responsible
- To be ready to learn
- To help others
- To develop self-esteem

#### LEARNING GOALS

- To be a learning listener
- To share my ideas
- To learn to read
- To enjoy books
- To enjoy writing
- To be a math thinker
- To be well prepared for first grade