

BO UL-MAD:
DYNAMIC JEWISH
EDUCATION FOR
FAMILIES AND

Kindergarten
Program

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CONGREGATION **Darchei Noam** 

A vibrant, egalitarian and inclusive community

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Our Take on Jewish Education

This is an exciting time to be Jewish, but also one of the most challenging. We live in a country that grants us unprecedented freedom to not only be Jewish, but to engage and impact the broader community in positive and meaningful ways. It is this freedom that poses our great challenge. How do we relate to the world around us without losing our cultural sense? How do we balance the call of our tradition with the pull of a modern lifestyle?

How can we inspire our children to develop their own Jewish sense?

The Reconstructionist approach to education encourages families and children to be full participants in the act of meaning-making. Congregation Darchei Noam offers a values-based curriculum for Kindergarten to Kitah Vav that begins with a fundamental respect for Jewish tradition and which emphasizes the positive family and social values that our ancestors have passed down to us.

Our Hebrew School creates a learning environment that is dynamic, interactive, stimulating and inspiring. We draw on our students' creativity and imaginations to foster a love of Judaism, a bond with our synagogue community, and a connection to Jews everywhere, and our teaching methodologies reflect this progressive attitude.

Our continuity as a people depends on our ability to provide positive experiences for our youth. Students at Darchei Noam have numerous opportunities during the year to participate fully in Shabbat and Holy Day celebrations, and they are given opportunities for social action. They will feel comfortable singing along in a worship service, they will develop a love for Israel and for Torah, and they will build basic literacy skills that will carry them to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations and beyond.

To enhance our program further, we offer weekly Music sessions, regular t'fillah prayer practice, and other elements for enrichment and enjoyment. There are also a number of opportunities for parents and families to join in their children's learning.

Judaism is a life-long endeavour, and Darchei Noam is a congregation of learners. We look forward to learning and growing together.

Nu, so what's the program about?

Children in Junior and Senior Kindergarten need a program that mixes active play, art, music and kinesthetic experiences. This is especially important in a program that runs for three hours. Free play sessions incorporate Jewish games, toys and materials; lessons about the Hebrew letters, Israel, Torah, Shabbat and the Holy Days engage the children through hands-on learning.

Sample Day Plan

9:30 – 9:45	Free Play - Centers include Jewish toys, manipulatives and games
9:45 – 10:20	Circle time, calendar, opening activities - May include introductions to the Hebrew calendar and events such as upcoming Holy Days
10:20 – 10:45	Music - Includes the use of rhythm and percussion instruments
10:45 – 11:00	Kiddush Break with the rest of the Sunday Hebrew students - Includes grape juice and challah - Prayer practice: <i>Ha-Motzi</i> and <i>Boreh P'ri Ha-Gafen</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Lesson - Hebrew letter of the day
11:30 – 11:50	Free Play - Centers include Jewish toys, manipulatives and games
11:50 – 12:30	Lesson - Theme of the week (ie. Shabbat, Torah, Holy Days, Israel, etc.)

The themes and topics for the weekly lessons run over a period of several weeks. They are designed to expose the children to particular experiences depending on the time of year.

The format for our Hebrew lessons exposes the children to one letter each week and introduces them to Jewish objects that start with each letter.

Holy Days and Torah are introduced through story-telling and art; exposure to Israel includes these techniques as well as visuals such as video and photos.

Additionally, our Kindergarten students participate in all school events such as the Grade Six-led tzedakah project.

All lessons are supported with manipulatives where possible.

Students in our Kindergarten program will be able to:

- identify the Torah as the basis for our observances;
- participate in home observances by learning basic prayers through song;
- participate in home observances by helping to lead basic rituals (ie. candle-lighting, Kiddush);
- distinguish between Hebrew and English letters;
- demonstrate an enthusiasm for being Jewish.

Sample Schedule of Themes to be Covered for the Year

September / October	High Holy Days Sukkot, Simchat Torah
October / November	Shabbat Torah: Stories of Creation, Noah, Tower of Babel
November / December	Chanukah Torah: Stories of our ancestors
January / February	Tu B'Shevat Israel: Regions
February / March	Israel: Regions Torah: Stories of our ancestors
March / April	Purim Pesach
April / May	Pesach Israel: Jerusalem
May / June	Shavu'ot Israel: Jerusalem

Contact Us!

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