



EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM GUIDE



OVERVIEW



The Yeshivah of Flatbush Early Childhood program is exciting, innovative, and engaging. Using a hands-on, developmentally age-appropriate curriculum with a Constructivist approach (children are actively involved in process), the students are challenged daily to be risk-taking learners in a warm, loving, nurturing and supportive Jewish environment. Children in Early Childhood are offered the opportunity to experience and understand the world around them through discovery, play, song and art. Our program is full of many inventive, stimulating, concrete activities that enable the accomplishment of our integrated Judaic/secular curriculum. We strive to plant the seeds for a dedication to a life of Torah and Mitzvot. We promote a commitment to Zionism and the State of Israel, a love of the Hebrew language, and the determination to be an integral part of the Jewish and secular communities we live in. Our Judaic/secular program prepares the children to utilize their intellectual and creative abilities in future learning tasks.

We view the parent body as our partner in this endeavor and encourage parents to express their ideas, concerns and opinions as we all work together for the betterment of “our” children. Our “open door” policy enables the parents to be an integral part of their child’s education.

We recognize that each child is unique and should therefore have opportunities and learning experiences that complement his or her own level of development and style. Using the Multiple Intelligence approach (children acquire information using different senses), along with Differentiated Instruction (individualized instruction), the faculty enables every child to be challenged and reach his or her utmost potential. We strive to recognize each child’s strengths and abilities as we implement this multifaceted curriculum.

JUDAIC STUDIES CURRICULUM

Our Judaic Studies curriculum consists of learning Tefillah, Parasha stories and themes, Shabbat and the Chagim. We strive to instill good values through our Middot in Action program. Through these programs, the children gain a sense of pride and a genuine love of Torah, performing Middot, and a strong connection and devotion to the State of Israel.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew language is a vital component within the Yeshivah. It is a bilingual program where every child is immersed throughout the day in an Ivrit B’lvrit environment. The children are immediately introduced to the language through speech, song, games, and stories.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Yeshivah promotes literacy as a source of enjoyment to instill a lifelong love of reading. Language Arts is taught with a focus on vocabulary and language, phonological awareness, knowledge of print, comprehension of written and verbal material, writing fundamentals, understanding literature, the ability of sequencing events and reading on-level.

MATH

Math is explored through number concepts, patterns and relationships, geometry and spatial science, measurements, data collection, and representation. The students are engaged in creative ways to discover the mathematical world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our Social Studies units include engaging lessons related to “All About Me”, family, friends, school, communities, Election Day, current events, historical events, presidents and explorers. Through these varied topics, the students are encouraged to build knowledge about the world around them by observing, asking questions and investigating.

SCIENCE

Our hands-on Science units concentrate on lifecycles, animals, the Earth and its environments, and seasonal changes. S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is integrated into our project-based learning with the children.

ATIDEINU GOALS

The goals and objectives of our Atideinu program are to encourage growth and independence in the social and academic realms. Through warmth and gentle guidance, we introduce concepts with innovative and exciting activities. Our Judaic and Hebrew curriculum focuses on Shabbat and the holidays, and the introduction of a new language through our Hebrew Immersion Program.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Children will develop their ability to manage their emotions, build relationships, and appropriately interact with others through:

- Separating from parents in a safe and loving environment
- Engaging in solitary and parallel play
- Participation in group activities
- Adjusting to classroom routines and following directions
- Learning to empathize with their peers through play and shared activities
- Developing appropriate manners and practicing respect for others
- Beginning to recognize and label their own feelings
- Adjusting to new situations
- Engaging in imaginative play
- Building play skills, such as taking turns and sharing

COGNITIVE SKILLS

Children will build their cognitive skills through:

- Communicating and sharing ideas with their teachers and peers
- Expanding their individual vocabularies and improving sentence structure
- Understanding and following directions
- Practicing early problem-solving skills
- Classifying, sorting and labeling objects
- Recognizing their own name in print
- Learning to ask well thought-out questions
- Listening and responding to age-appropriate stories
- Reciting simple songs, fingerplays and nursery rhymes
- Recognizing familiar things, objects and people
- Engaging in pretend play

LANGUAGE

Children will develop their ability to:

- Begin to understand spatial relationships (on top, next to, under, etc.)
- Follow two-to-three-step directions
- State their full name
- Use multiple words in a sentence
- Answer questions using a full sentence
- Use pronouns appropriately
- Sing familiar songs

SELF-HELP SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Clean up at appropriate times with decreasing guidance
- Wash their hands by themselves
- Indicate a need to use the bathroom with decreasing assistance
- Feed themselves
- Dress themselves

ATIDEINU GOALS

- Follow classroom routines
- Participate in group activities
- Demonstrate respect and care for classroom materials

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Manipulate objects with increasing control
- Begin to attempt cutting with scissors
- Scribble with crayons, markers, or paint with intention
- Draw a circle

GROSS MOTOR

Children will be able to:

- Kick and catch a ball
- Jump, run, march and hop
- Walk up and down stairs
- Stack and build blocks
- Ride a tricycle

MATH

Children will participate in hands-on activities and learn age-appropriate mathematical skills including:

- Identifying and sorting simple shapes and objects
- Measuring and comparing objects
- 1-to-1 correspondence
- Counting and quantifying numbers 1 to 5
- Recognizing and sequencing patterns
- Identifying shapes, colors, and patterns
- Learning through hands-on activities such as songs, counting, fingerplays and crafts

SCIENTIFIC THINKING

Children are encouraged to learn about their environment through activities designed to foster the following skills:

- Making observations
- Asking questions
- Making predictions
- Recording information through art
- Describing and exploring the world around them

JUDAIC STUDIES/HEBREW LANGUAGE

- Children will be exposed to:
- Celebrating and learning about Shabbat and Jewish holidays.
- Reciting Jewish prayer
- The meaning and importance of Mitzvot (tzedakah, calling a friend when sick)
- Hebrew vocabulary and songs
- The importance of Middot Tovot



ATIDEINU 2S GOALS

The goals and objectives of our Atideinu 2s program are designed to foster trust and security, and to help the children acclimate to their settings both inside the classroom and out. In our warm and loving environment, the children learn to engage in play and learn through hands-on experiences.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Children will develop their ability to manage their emotions, build relationships, and appropriately interact with others through:

- Engaging in solitary and parallel play
- Participating in group activities
- Adjusting to classroom routines and following directions
- Building play skills, such as taking turns and sharing
- Expressing feelings and recognizing emotions in others
- Developing independence

COGNITIVE SKILLS

Children will enhance their cognitive abilities through:

- Making observations
- Asking intelligent questions
- Following directions
- Listening to and understanding age-appropriate stories
- Engaging in imaginative play
- Developing their individual vocabularies
- Understanding similarities and differences

SELF-HELP SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Clean up at appropriate times
- Feed him/herself
- Dress him/herself
- Manage toileting activities

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Thread beads
- Scribble with crayons, markers, or paint
- Turn pages
- Pick up small objects
- Draw a circle

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

Children will develop gross motor skills through age-appropriate activities such as:

- Dancing to music
- Participating in gym activities and games with assorted sports equipment
- Climbing, running and bicycle pedaling on outdoor sports equipment



ATIDEINU 2S GOALS

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Children will learn age-appropriate mathematical skills including:

- Number sense and recognition
- Counting and quantifying
- Identifying shapes and patterns
- Understanding the “how many” of basic numbers as well as basic math language (more, fewer, heavy, big and small)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Children will develop conversational skills, enhance their vocabulary and further their speech and language development through:

- Communicating and sharing ideas with their teachers and peers
- Understanding and following directions
- Reciting simple songs, fingerplays and nursery rhymes
- Imitating adult behavior and language through play

NURSERY GOALS

As the children enter Nursery, their everyday life expands beyond themselves and their families; they begin to explore and understand the world around them. The goals and objectives of our Nursery program are to channel a child's natural energy and curiosity into his or her academic and social learning experiences.

The Nursery curriculum is both thematic and interdisciplinary. While focusing on specific themes throughout the school year, these themes are incorporated into the math, social studies, science and language arts curriculums.

Our Judaic Studies and Hebrew Language curriculum focuses largely on our community, Jewish values and traditions, and a love for the State of Israel.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Children will develop their ability to manage their emotions, build relationships, and appropriately interact with others through:

- Developing independence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy
- Participating in group activities
- Adjusting to classroom routines and following directions
- Learning to empathize with their peers through play and shared activities
- Developing conflict/resolution skills
- Observing and responding to social cues
- Engaging in imaginative play and inventive thinking
- Exploring and understanding rules and social expectations
- Seeking an adult's assistance when needed
- Identifying and labeling feelings in themselves and others

COGNITIVE SKILLS

Children will develop their listening and speaking skills and build appropriate pre-reading and writing abilities through:

- Communicating and sharing ideas with their teachers and peers
- Conversing in group discussions regarding literacy
- Expanding their individual vocabularies and improving sentence structure
- Understanding and following directions
- Asking well thought-out questions
- Being able to listen to age-appropriate stories and respond to them
- Reciting songs, fingerplays and nursery rhymes including chants, rhythmic texts, and poems
- Predicting and retelling story sequences
- Developing phonics skills, including letter and sound recognition
- Building phonemic awareness
- Practicing early writing skills using letters and letter-like symbols
- Identifying details in order to compare and contrast

NURSERY GOALS

LANGUAGE

Children will develop their ability to:

- Understand and follow verbal directions of two or more steps
- Recognize that print carries meaning
- Recognize and attempt to write their own name
- Answer questions using a full sentence
- Answer questions with a complete thought

- Develop and use descriptive language
- Look for patterns in speech
- Look for phonemic patterns that advance the writing process
- Recognize many alphabet letters and sounds
- Retell stories and ideas
- Recognize and name opposites and rhyming words
- Participate in song and movement activities

SELF-HELP SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Participate in clean-up
- Accept responsibility when asked
- Demonstrate respect and care for classroom materials
- Take care of their own bathroom and hand washing needs
- Keep track of personal belongings at school
- Button and zip their jackets

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Cut a drawn shape without assistance
- Hold a pencil with ease (pincer grasp)
- Grasp and manipulate small items
- Exhibit hand/eye coordination

GROSS MOTOR

Children will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic large motor skills (running, jumping, hopping, galloping, riding a tricycle)
- Demonstrate balancing skills
- Throw and catch medium-size balls
- Follow directions in physical activities and games

NURSERY GOALS

MATH

Children will learn age-appropriate mathematical skills including:

- Counting and quantifying
- A basic understanding of addition and subtraction
- Recognizing, sequencing and creating patterns
- Sorting and ordering geometric shapes and objects
- Understanding and implementing positional words
- Measuring and comparing objects
- Comprehending the concepts of time (including seasons, months, and days of the year)
- Classifying objects according to a variety of characteristics
- Adding and subtracting sets
- Understanding more, less and equal to

SCIENTIFIC THINKING

Children are encouraged to learn about their environment through activities designed to foster the following skills:

- Making observations
- Asking questions
- Making predictions and recording information using drawings, maps and charts
- Describing and exploring the world around them
- Observing lifecycles
- Planting and gardening
- Caring for and maintaining animals and aquatic life
- Experimenting with various materials
- Replicating results using different variables

JUDAIC STUDIES/HEBREW LANGUAGE

Children will be exposed to:

- Celebrating and learning about Shabbat and Jewish holidays
- Reciting Jewish prayer
- Stories and characters from the Torah
- Judaic objects and symbols
- The meaning and importance of Mitzvot (tzedakah, calling a friend when sick)
- A rich Hebrew vocabulary that fosters the development of Hebrew language acquisition
- A curriculum that stresses Middot Tovot
- A strong sense of Jewish identity and community
- A love for the State of Israel

KINDERGARTEN GOALS

Kindergarten children learn to solve problems and make predictions by observing objects and people around them and connecting that to what they already know. The goals and objectives of our Kindergarten program are to provide opportunities for maximum learning experiences.

While social and emotional growth is a large focus, the Kindergarten children experience a rigorous academic curriculum rich with math, social studies, science and language arts. We believe that the children learn best through play and hands-on activities which encourage higher-level thinking, risk-taking and problem-solving.

Our Judaic and Hebrew curriculum is taught through an Immersion Program. The classroom staff speaks only in Hebrew as they introduce Jewish concepts and traditions.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Children will develop their ability to manage their emotions, build relationships, and appropriately interact with others through:

- Working independently
- Staying on task and completing tasks with some support
- Using appropriate words to express feelings in self and others
- Participating in group activities
- Adjusting to classroom routines and following directions
- Learning to empathize with their peers through play and shared activities
- Developing conflict/resolution skills
- Understanding appropriate behavior and social cues
- Engaging in imaginative play and inventive thinking
- Exploring and understanding rules and social expectations
- Seeking adult assistance when needed
- Working in peer-lead groups

COGNITIVE SKILLS

Children will develop their listening and speaking skills and build appropriate pre-reading and writing abilities through:

- Understanding and following directions
- Learning to ask intelligent questions
- Listening and responding to age-appropriate stories
- Reciting songs, fingerplays and nursery rhymes

READING

Children will be able to:

- Predict and retell story sequences
- Communicate and share ideas with their teachers and peers
- Converse in group discussions regarding literacy
- Expand their individual vocabularies and improve sentence structure
- Listen and become aware of language patterns and word meanings
- Draw simple conclusions based on materials read to them
- Relate a story to their personal experiences
- Use pictures to understand a story
- Identify patterns in a story
- Identify rhyming elements of words and phrases
- Meet in individualized reading groups

KINDERGARTEN GOALS

LANGUAGE

Children will develop their ability to:

- Understand and follow verbal directions of two or more steps
- Build phonemic awareness
- Identify parts of a book: front, back, title, author and illustrator
- Demonstrate top, bottom, and left-to-right progression when reading
- Distinguish letters from words and words from sentences
- Identify lowercase and uppercase letters
- Demonstrate a knowledge of beginning sounds and ending sounds
- Blend CVC sounds to make a word
- Identify and originate rhyming words
- Count the number of sounds in a syllable and the number of syllables in a word
- Identify common words by sight
- Make predictions
- Demonstrate comprehension of stories by retelling the story orally or acting it out
- Identify the characters, setting, and main idea of a story
- Write their name on a line
- Print alphabet letters legibly, without a model
- Use letters, pictures, and words for creative expression
- Write from the proper directions
- Write some CVC words accurately and longer words phonetically
- State the names of the days of the week and months of the year
- Identify the eight basic colors
- Recognize that print carries meaning
- Answer questions with a full sentence
- Answer questions with a complete thought
- Respond to prompts in a journal

WRITING

Children will be able to:

- Write a two-to-three-word sentence with a matching picture
- Include the beginning and ending sounds of words, although vowels may be missing
- Understand that a sentence begins with a capital and ends with a period
- Include spaces between words
- Write words legibly

SELF-HELP SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Participate in clean-up
- Recite their address, phone number, and birthday from memory
- Demonstrate an ability to put on and fasten outer clothing without assistance
- Accept responsibility when asked
- Demonstrate respect and care for classroom materials
- Take care of their own bathroom and hand washing needs
- Keep track of personal belongings at school

KINDERGARTEN GOALS

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Children will be able to:

- Cut along a solid or dotted line
- Hold pencil and scissors correctly
- Outline and color neatly within the lines

GROSS MOTOR

Children will be able to:

- Hop on one foot (left and right), march, gallop, and skip
- Demonstrate balancing skills
- Throw and catch balls
- Follow directions during physical activities and games

MATH

Children will learn age-appropriate mathematical skills including:

- 1-to-1 correspondence
- Sorting and classifying objects by position, shape, size and color
- Identify, extend and create patterns
- Count to 100 by 1's and 10's
- Identify and draw the five basic shapes
- Identify numerals 0-20
- Label sets 0-10 with correct numeral
- Compare sets of objects and use the terms equal to, more than, or less than, accurately
- Count backwards from 10
- Identify coins and their values
- Tell time to the hour
- Identify half versus whole
- Divide objects equally into groups
- Measure length with a variety of non-standard measurements
- Compare measurements and use the terms shorter, longer, taller, heavier, warmer and cooler
- Use positional words to explain location (left, right, on, off, inside, between, above and below)
- Interpret graphs
- Basic understanding of addition and subtraction
- Comprehend the concepts of time (including seasons, months, and days of the year)



KINDERGARTEN GOALS



SCIENTIFIC THINKING

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JUDAIC STUDIES/HEBREW LANGUAGE

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- Celebrating and learning about Shabbat and Jewish holidays
- Reciting Jewish prayer
- Stories and characters from the Torah
- Judaic objects and symbols
- The meaning and importance of Mitzvot (tzedakah, calling a friend when sick)
- A rich Hebrew vocabulary that fosters the development of Hebrew language acquisition
- A curriculum that stresses Middot Tovot
- A strong sense of Jewish identity and community
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