



Downtown Hebrew for Kids

The Hebrew School Your Kids Love

Parent's Handbook 2013-2014 / 5774

Downtown Hebrew for Kids

Steen Family Jewish Children's Educational Center

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Dear Parents,

*Imagine a Hebrew School where kids don't want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a Hebrew song. Walking through the rooms, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter and learning. Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism and loves learning Hebrew. Imagine the pride of his/her parents.
Welcome to Downtown Hebrew for Kids 😊*

Thank you for giving us the chance to teach your children. We are humbled by this responsibility and your faith, entrusting us with the monumental partnership in your child's Jewish education.

We are excited to get acquainted with your child and begin our journey into Hebrew and Judaism. You should be proud that you have now joined thousands of families around the world on a passage into our rich culture and birthright.

Please take a moment to review the parent's handbook so that we can be partners in creating the best, safest and most enjoyable experience at Hebrew for Kids.

Sincerely,

Devorah Kaplan,

Director Hebrew for Kids

Mission Statement:

At Hebrew for Kids we are proud of our refreshing approach to Jewish Education! Our mission is to provide and promote the highest quality Hebrew and Judaic education to a diverse community of Jewish children. Our aim is to nurture and build the foundation of your child's Jewish identity, through our interdisciplinary educational approach. The focus of our dedicated teachers is to inspire a twofold love; a love for learning and a love for Judaism. A well-balanced Hebrew School education will develop in our students a commitment to using Jewish values as a guide to the decisions of life, community and family.

Philosophy

The Downtown Hebrew for Kids environment is one of openness; welcoming families from all backgrounds. We acknowledge and respect the diversity of our children; while emphasizing Jewish values of family, community, caring, joy, tradition and rituals. Through comprehensive learning, holiday celebrations, and community events, our children gain pride in the richness of their Jewish heritage, culture and history as one united Jewish Nation! We value each and every family that joins us!

Educational Goals

- ❖ To develop within our students a positive attitude towards Judaism and their Jewish identity*
- ❖ To give our students knowledge of Torah, Holidays, Prayers, Jewish History, customs, laws, culture, ethics and ideals.*
- ❖ To develop within our students a sense of belonging and commitment to the Jewish people along with the knowledge and understanding of our love and spiritual ties to Israel.*
- ❖ To foster care and concern for each individual Jew, encourage support of Jewish charities, and acts of kindness towards humanity as a whole.*
- ❖ To develop, through Hebrew reading competency, a familiarity with our prayer book, synagogue rituals and observances.*
- ❖ To instill in each of our students a love for Jewish learning and a commitment of Jewish study that will last a lifetime!*

Staff Credentials

- ❖ *Certified and trained teachers.*
- ❖ *Teaching degrees from Australia, France, Israel and New York.*
- ❖ *Extensive knowledge of Pedagogy and Child Psychology.*
- ❖ *Numerous years of experience in childhood education.*
- ❖ *Trained in CPR, first Aid and anaphylactic care.*
- ❖ *Special Needs Supervisor with her Masters in Special Ed and 30 years' experience*
- ❖ *Knowledge and fluency in multiple languages; Hebrew, Yiddish, English Spanish.*
- ❖ *Qualified and ample assistants in each class for the optimum learning environment.*

Methods in the Classroom

- ❖ *Visual aids - Touching, feeling and seeing the actual Biblical items and artifacts*
- ❖ *Circle time - Interactive and all inclusive: visual and audio included.*
- ❖ *Story time - Incorporating musical expression, pictures and role playing.*
- ❖ *Role playing - Understanding and personalizing the morals and values taught in the Torah*
- ❖ *Debates - Allowing the diversity of the children to be expressed and acknowledged*
- ❖ *Video - Presentations in song and play for the visual learner in all of us*
- ❖ *Puppets - Fun and entertaining learning tool*
- ❖ *Music / Song / Audio - Exciting & enjoyable audio learning tools*
- ❖ *Centers - Hands on learning centers in smaller groups, for specific, focused learning & comprehension*
- ❖ *Montessori Style ambiance - Children assisting and teaching other children*
- ❖ *One on one time- Personalized one on one teacher / child learning*
- ❖ *Games - Implementing and reinforcing concepts through imagination and games*
- ❖ *Hands on manipulation - Channeled freedom to express the lesson learned
eg: baking*
- ❖ *Children's personal creativity and interpretation*
- ❖ *Problem Solving - Critical thinking skills*
- ❖ *Compare and contrast - lending value to all opinions and thoughts*
- ❖ *Internalizing the lessons in our daily lives*
- ❖ *Hebrew computer programs and game lab*

Special Needs advisor

We are delighted to welcome to our staff a Special Needs Supervisor; Mrs. Julie Gerber. Mrs. Julie Gerber has her masters in Special education and extensive experience working with children with special needs.

She will be evaluating, guiding and assisting on a constant basis. We have already incorporated many new methods and teaching tools to ensure that each child has a proper Jewish educational experience, regardless of their individual differences or special needs.

Your participation and communication is vital for us to be able to ensure the right learning and social environment for your child.

Please be sure to notify us of any special needs or information that we should have that would help us better accommodate for your child and the children in his/her class.

Please do not have discussions with the teachers at drop off and pick up.

Please make an appointment either via e-mail or phone.

We will surely do our best to accommodate you.

Julie will also be available by appointment.

Curriculum Summary:

Hebrew Reading and language

At Hebrew for Kids, we strive to provide the highest standard of Hebrew language study in the limited amount of time. In all classes, children immerse in the Hebrew language. Each class incorporates the four strands of language acquisition,

- *reading*
- *writing*
- *listening*
- *speaking*

Our focus is to impart relevant Hebrew language skills integrated with Jewish studies. This allows the children to practically apply the language into appropriate areas of their lives. We incorporate two programs:

- *Aleph Champion Hebrew Reading*
- *Hebrew Legend - Language and Conversation*

***Aleph Champion Hebrew Reading** allows each individual child to advance in reading at their own pace and become proficient Hebrew readers. Aleph Champ is based on the Karate motivational system and integrates color based levels for Hebrew reading. Students start out on the white champ level with a white champ book and white flash cards and a burning desire to pass to the next level. Age appropriate, creative and motivational methods are used.*

***Hebrew Legend** is an innovative program that enables the children to incorporate Hebrew language and vocabulary into their Hebrew World! In the very first stages of Hebrew reading - as soon as they master the letters and even one vowel, the children are introduced to numerous related words that they can integrate into sentences and their life.*

The program follows 15-20 essential word groups and necessary vocabulary and grammar, throughout their years at Hebrew for kids. The goal of Hebrew Legend is to impart the children with the knowledge and ability to converse in Hebrew.

Aleph Champion Levels:

Level 1- White Aleph Champ: First 19 Letters of the Hebrew Alphabet

Pre-reading skills; involving proficiency in the names and sounds of the Aleph-Bet.

Level 2 - Red Aleph Champ: Next 13 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet.

*Level 3 - Orange Aleph Champ; The first 3 vowels of the Hebrew Reading System:
Kamatz, Patach, Tzeirei*

Level 4-Yellow Aleph Champ; The next 3 vowels...Segol, Shva, Cholem

Level 5 - Green Aleph Champ; The last 3 vowels: Chirik, Koobootz, Shoorook

*Level 6 - Blue Aleph Champ; Exceptions to the Rule: Patach Chet, Double
shva, (middle & end of words) Yud vav, Patach yud...*

Level 7 - Purple Aleph Champ: 60 wpm (words per minute) Prayers

Level 8 - Brown Aleph Champ 70wpm, Prayers from everyday & Shabbat prayers

Level 9 - Grey Belt! Proficiency

Level 10- Black Belt! Can Read like the Cantor 😊

Hebrew Legend Levels:

*Level 1 Pink legend-My Magical Alef-Bet Focus is on the names and sounds of the
Aleph-Bet and Pre-reading skills. Vocabulary and songs introducing the new world of
Hebrew language. Introduction to vowels and script letters.*

*Level 2 Peach Legend- I Can Read Hebrew Hebrew Reading is taught in context,
involving pronunciation of all letter and vowel combinations. Vocabulary & language
comprehension.*

*Level 3 Lime Legend Focus on accuracy in reading. Vocabulary units, reading
comprehension,*

*Level 4 Violet Legend Reading fluency and accuracy. Hebrew language skills, involving
vocabulary units and beginners grammar.*

*Level 5 Turquoise Legend Consolidating Hebrew Language skills, involving more extensive
grammar and writing.*

*Level 6 Silver Legend Developing Hebrew Language skills as you read and explore Hebrew
text*

*Level 7 Gold Legend Become a Black Aleph Champ Legend and take the Hebrew language
with you. Hebrew from Birth onward-Journal writing and conversation.*

Jewish Studies

Our unique Jewish studies curriculum combines seven carefully chosen themes. This is in addition to all the Jewish Holidays, covered two lessons prior to every festival.

Level 1 My Magical Mitzvot

Jewish Ethics and Values in Order of the Aleph-Bet

Ahavat Yisrael/Love thy Neighbour; Bikkur Cholim/Visiting the Sick; Gemilut Chasadim/Acts of Kindness; Derech Eretz/Respect; Hachnasat Orchim/Inviting Guests; Vatranut/Patience; Zrizut/swiftness; Challah; Netilat Yadayim/Washing Hands; Kibud Av V'Em/Honor your Father and Mother; Lashon Tov & Lashon Hara/Talebearing; Seder V'Nikayon/Order and Cleanliness; Mezuzah; Tzedakah/Charity; Emet & Sheker/Honesty; Talmud-Torah/Torah Study.

Level 2 Beginnings - Bible Stories of Bereshit

Genesis- Stories of the 1st Book of the Torah.

Famous Jewish heroes and characters; timeline of events; storyline; lessons, morals and messages for our lives today. Topics include: Creation; Noah and the Flood; Dor Haflaga/Generation of Confusion; our Patriarchs and Matriarchs; Joseph & the 12 Tribes.

Level 3 Torah Travels

Shemot-Devarim Stories of 4 Books of the Torah

Famous Jewish heroes and characters; timeline of events; storyline; lessons, morals and messages for our lives today. Topics include: Moses and the Israelites in Egypt; Exodus; Mt Sinai- The Giving of the Torah; Jews Travels in the Dessert.

Level 4 WikiTorah

Fundamental Mitzvot and Foundations of Jewish Faith.

Topics include: Gam Zu LeTova/Everything is for the best; Torah study; Jewish Birthdays; Kashrut/Kosher; Anava/humility; Shabbat; Blessings; Hashgacha Pratit/Divine Providence; Simcha/Joy.

Level 5 In their Shoes

Jewish History from Joshua to the Second Temple Era

Events covered: Judges; Samson the Great; Deborah the prophetess; Kings Saul, David & Solomon; Elijah the prophet; Temple I; Babylonian Exile; Purim; Oral/written Law

Level 6 Stepping Forward

Jewish History from the Second Temple Era until Today

Events covered: The second Temple era; Ezra and Nechemia; the Chashmonaim; Chanukah; Christianity; the Middle Ages; Spanish Inquisition; European Jewry; Great Jewish Scholars; Holocaust; Modern Israel

Level 7 Kids in Action/ Lifecycles

The Torahs' Perspective on Lifecycle Events.

Participate in the real thing, and learn it, live it, love it!

Topics include; Birth and the Neshamah/soul; Brit; Bar/Bat Mitzvah; Adolescence-think the Jewish way; Jewish Wedding; Mourning; Death; Techiyat Hamaitim/After life; Moshiach and the Jewish Future.

School Sessions: Hours

Sunday 10:00am - 12noon

Tuesday 3:30pm - 5:30 pm

Optional Aftercare until 6:00pm - Please speak to Devorah regarding aftercare.

Ages

Boys and Girls Ages 4 -13

Dress Code

There is no official uniform at Hebrew for Kids

Children are welcome to wear appropriate clothing of their choice.

Shirts and shoes are mandatory.

Kippahs/ Yarmalkahs are provided at Hebrew for Kids and the boys are encouraged to wear them during class and prayers.

Tzedakah / Charity

Tzedakah is a basic concept in Judaism. Our Hebrew School attempts to develop a commitment amongst our students to share with others less fortunate by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Please provide your child with a coin for Tzedakah.

We will provide for those children who forget to bring. You may want to encourage your child to take from their allowance. At the culmination of the year we will send the Tzedakah to a specific charity so the children can see what they have accomplished.

Mitzvah Notes - Random Acts of Goodness and Kindness

A mitzvah note is a note describing a good deed your child has done. Each classroom has a Mitzvah tree that the notes are hung on. The children love to share their personal experiences and acts of kindness with their friends. Let's watch our tree grow!

School wide incentive programs:

Tickets are distributed randomly to reward good behavior. Each child has their own ticket bag or box to collect their tickets. Periodically over the year we set up a "store" where the children can buy prizes for their well-earned tickets.

Homework & Parental Participation

Homework is not mandatory but is greatly encouraged! We fully understand and appreciate the other academic responsibilities of the students. However in order for your child to retain the reading skills they learned in school, please encourage them to practice his / her reading at least 10 minutes each night.

Kids Shabbat and Birthday Bash

To appreciate and understand the prayers and rituals, children are encouraged to attend Shabbat services.

We have a weekly Kids Pray 'n Play Shabbat program which includes: games, stories, prayers, Kiddush, challah and healthy snacks. The program concludes in a choral performance for the whole congregation.

Our monthly Kids Shabbat is a big event!

It includes the usual fun and games of kids Pray 'n Play and adds a big birthday celebration for all the children who celebrate their birthday that month!

Kids Shabbat is followed by a delicious catered lunch for you and your family

What a way to celebrate your birthday!

Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival / Drop off

Tuesdays' class begins at 3:30pm prompt! Sundays at 10:00am prompt!

A staff member will be outside

Tuesday from 3:15pm - 3:40pm

Sunday from 9:50am - 10:15am

to assist you in unloading your children.

Please be careful when pulling in and out of the parking lot.

Pick up from local public schools on Tuesdays:

We offer pick up from Virginia Schuman Young at 3:15pm on Tuesdays.

We also offer pick up from other local downtown schools.

If you would like us to pick up your child, please be sure you checked the appropriate boxes on the registration forms or fill in the enclosed permission slip & submit it to our office.

*You **MUST** notify VSJ or your school that a representative from Hebrew for Kids will be picking up your child on Tuesdays.*

There is a designated area at VSY pick up for the Hebrew school kids. Please remind your child to be there on Tuesdays. Children in the "cage" will be picked up by us.

***PLEASE NOTIFY US WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT OR
WILL NOT NEED TO BE PICKED UP FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL***

Dismissal /Pick up

School Ends Tuesdays at 5:30pm and Sundays at 12:00noon.

Please do not come earlier! Every minute of class time is essential to the learning process. Please do not pick up from the parking lot;

Please line up in your cars, north bound on SE 17th street (animal clinic), we will bring your child to your car.

Broward Blvd. is very busy at that time and we are looking out for your safety and the safety of your children.

Staff members will be outside to assist in carpool.

Snacks

Hebrew for Kids provides healthy snacks and water.

We would love for parents to participate in the purchasing of healthy snacks!

We will be sending home a roster list with a specified week for you to bring a snack.

It is not mandatory but greatly appreciated.

Snack Criteria:

- 1. Products should be dry*
- 2. Non dairy*
- 3. Must have a Kosher symbol. Such as circle u, circle k, star k*
- 4. No peanuts or anything with peanuts in them*
- 5. Cut fruit sealed from a local grocery store is acceptable*

We can store dry items so feel free to drop off any dry items anytime :)

Children with allergies such as gluten free, egg free etc, are encouraged to bring their own kosher snack. We cannot guarantee that we will have appropriate snack for them each week and we do not want them to be hungry. Learning on an empty stomach is very disturbing to some children. We want to be sure they are satiated and ready to learn with the least amount of distractions.

Parent Release Form for Media Recording

Kids love to see themselves in photos and parents love to see the smiling faces and activities going on with their children while they are not around 😊

We take photos and videos each and every day at Hebrew for Kids, updating our photo page and allowing you a glimpse into our classrooms and all the fun we are having!

We are very sensitive to your privacy. Please NOTE:

The Hebrew school photo link can only be accessed on our Hebrew school page on our website - not from the usual home page.

Our Facebook page is a private page and only open to invited Hebrew school families.

Please fill in the form below - if you have any questions, feel free to call Devorah:

I, the undersigned do hereby grant or deny permission to Downtown Jewish Center Chabad to use the image of my child, _____, as marked by my selection(s) below.

Such use includes the display, distribution, publication, transmission, or otherwise use of photographs, images, and/or video taken of my child for use in materials that include, but may not be limited to, printed materials such as brochures and newsletters, videos, and digital images such as those on the Downtown Jewish Center Chabad Web site.

Deny permission to use my child's image at all.

Grant permission to use my child's image in the following ways (mark all that apply):

Unrestricted usage: I give unrestricted permission for my child's image to be used in print, video, and digital media. I agree that these images may be used by DJCC for a variety of purposes and that these images may be used without further notifying me. I do understand that the child's last name will not be used in conjunction with any video or digital images.

Limited usage: I want my child's image used within the DJCC setting only: DJCC website and Hebrew for Kids facebook (not in the larger community).

Limited usage: I want my child's image used on printed materials only (no digital or video use).

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____

Or Fill out form here:

<http://www.downtownjewish.com/parent-release-form-for-media-recording/>

Signature Page: Please fill in & submit to the office:

Or fill in online at www.Downtownjewish.com

Hebrew for Kids Parent Handbook

- I have read and understand the Parent's handbook*

Sign _____ Date: _____

Or fill out online here: <http://www.downtownjewish.com/i-have-read-the-parents-handbook/>

Permission to pick up from VSY or local public school

I, _____ give permission for my child,

_____ to be picked up from:

- VSY or*

And be taken to Hebrew School at approximately 3:15pm on Tuesdays

- I do not require this service*

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Or Fill out form here:

<http://www.downtownjewish.com/permission-for-pick-up-from-school-form/>

Permission for someone other than Guardian, to pick up child from school

I hereby give permission for the following person/s to pick up my child(ren) up from Hebrew for Kids Hebrew School.

Signed _____ Date _____

Or Fill out form here:

<http://www.downtownjewish.com/permission-for-someone-other-than-parentguardian-to-pick-up-from-hfk/>

Trips and Nature walks outside of Hebrew for Kids:

During the course of the year, there may be occasions where the children will be visiting a nursing home, supermarket or fun zone. All families will be notified in advance. To help expedite the process and have permission slips on file, please sign below.

- I give permission for my child(ren) to be taken off School premises for Educational related activities or trips provided by Downtown Hebrew for Kids.*
- I understand that this may either be by foot or in a licensed insured vehicle chosen for a trip day or excursion.*

Signed _____ Date: _____

Or fill out form here:

<http://www.downtownjewish.com/trips-nature-walks-permission-form/>

Snack

- I would be happy to participate in the snack roster - please notify me of my scheduled dates.*
- I cannot participate in the snack roster.*

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Tear off and keep for your convenience

Staying Connected

Each week you will receive an e-mail update and a link to our website.

We will post photos and a short description of that week's class for your enjoyment.

Please friend us - on Facebook Hebrew for Kids

We are sure you will take great pride in their academic achievements and smiling faces.

Downtown Hebrew for Kids 1012 E Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale FL 33301

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