

# Curriculum Goals For Pre - Kindergarten

As the young child crosses the threshold of the Pre K classroom, he/she begins the journey of learning and growing in JKHA. Our curriculum provides for full integration of Judaic and General Studies with an emphasis on pride in Jewish identity and familiarity with ritual and tradition as well as on the emotional, social, spiritual and academic development of each child. With an understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of every child, our experienced teachers provide a nurturing environment where each can develop at his/her own pace. The fundamental skills that underlie formal instruction form the core of the academic curriculum.

**The Pre K curriculum provides for the integration of Judaic and General Studies objectives. Torah values are incorporated into daily instruction and activities.**

## Reading Readiness and Language Development

A student should be able to:

- ✓ Use his/her senses to explore the alphabet.
- ✓ Begin letter recognition, both receptively and expressively.
- ✓ Recognize his/her own name, as well as others in the class.
- ✓ Develop awareness of the sound structure of the English language.
- ✓ Detect similarities and differences between sounds.
- ✓ Recognize and repeat rhyming patterns.
- ✓ Discriminate between spoken sounds.
- ✓ Match/identify words or objects with same initial sound.
- ✓ Recognize syllables in spoken words or name (clap out pattern).
- ✓ Demonstrate pre-reading behaviors.
- ✓ Gain awareness of print in their environment (signs and logos, for example).
- ✓ Gain "book knowledge" - how a book looks (front vs. back, left - right).
- ✓ Begin to associate spoken sounds with corresponding letters.
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of picture books (big books) or simple stories.
- ✓ Recall a simple story in sequence.
- ✓ Dramatize a story.
- ✓ Expand vocabulary through interactions with literature, daily language activities, and hands on experiences in class.
- ✓ Follow a series of simple directions.
- ✓ Respond to questions.
- ✓ Demonstrate good listening behaviors: eye contact with speaker, maintaining adequate focus and attention.
- ✓ Develop a love of books through interactions with different types of text and through "story time" in the classroom and school library.

- ✓ Select books from the school library with adult guidance.

### **Social and Emotional Development and *Midot***

The Pre K student should:

- ✓ Play cooperatively in small groups.
- ✓ Develop a positive self image.
- ✓ Use politeness and manners in interpersonal interactions.
- ✓ Act respectfully to adults and peers.
- ✓ Gain familiarity with *mitzvot* "*Bein Adom L'Chaveyro*".
- ✓ Gain an understanding of the concept of *chesed*.

### **Fine and Gross Motor Skills**

The student should:

- ✓ Handle scissors, crayons or other written implements at age appropriate level.
- ✓ Form letters using techniques described in the Handwriting without Tears program.
- ✓ Distinguish between right and left. Establish dominance in writing.
- ✓ Engage in gross motor activities at age appropriate levels (run, jump, hop, catch, imitate movements, balance).
- ✓ Follow rules of safety during motor activities in the classroom, playground and gym.

### **Science and Social Studies**

\* These areas are integrated into both the General Studies and Judaic curricula where relevant and appropriate. Students acquire knowledge and skills through hands-on experiences. Pre K students should:

- ✓ Learn about weather, season, plants, animals, magnetism, senses, hygiene, nutrition and the environment as these topics relate to either the secular or Judaic calendar.
- ✓ Acquire knowledge about national holidays through books, songs, and other activities.
- ✓ Learn the rules of safety (in cars, buses, in case of fire, etc).
- ✓ Learn about themselves as individuals.
- ✓ Learn about basic elements of a community: citizens, helpers, neighborhoods, etc.

### **Mathematics**

The Pre K student should:

- ✓ Count with understanding and recognize how many in sets of objects up to 10 (at a concrete level).
- ✓ Match sets of numbers to corresponding numeral.
- ✓ Listen for numeric information in addition and subtraction story problems and use counting objects to solve problems.
- ✓ Develop a concrete understanding of division by sharing objects equally.
- ✓ Develop understanding of the concepts of greater than and less than using concrete objects.

- ✓ Recognize and complete patterns, including sequences of sounds and shapes.
- ✓ Establish one-to-one correspondence for digits up to 10.
- ✓ Sort objects according to specific attributes (color, shape, size, etc).
- ✓ Recognize geometric shapes in the environment.
- ✓ Learn concepts of time: before, after.
- ✓ Establish understanding of the concept of a calendar: days of the week, months, seasons, year.
- ✓ Make comparisons of length, weight and capacity using concrete experiences.
- ✓ Represent concrete data using a pictograph.
- ✓ Recognize quantitative and qualitative change such as growing taller over the course of the school year, or noting growth in plants or class pets.
- ✓ Use "real life" experiences such as cooking and baking to learn basic concepts of measurement.
- ✓ Recognize basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle).

### **Judaic Program**

The importance of Torah is conveyed throughout the Pre K curriculum:

- ✓ Jewish Holidays are taught through multisensory experiences, including arts and crafts projects, songs and dramatizations. Customs and laws are taught at a developmentally appropriate level.
- ✓ Students will participate in a daily period of *tefila* (prayers) including: *Modeh Ani*, *Shema*, *Adon Olam*, and *Birkat Hamazon*.
- ✓ Pre K students are taught the *brachot* (blessings) for food, holidays, *Shabbat Kiddush* and *Havdala*.
- ✓ Students will learn the *Parashat Hashavua* (Portion of the Week) through hands on experiences, song and dramatizations. Emphasis will be placed on the storyline and moral lessons exemplified.
- ✓ Students will participate in activities highlighting the importance of *tzedakah*.

### **Hebrew Language**

- ✓ Students will be exposed to the *Aleph-Bet*, and will recognize their names in Hebrew.
- ✓ Through modeling and repeated exposure to the Hebrew language, students will gain a familiarity and understanding of high frequency vocabulary and directions, including: numbers, colors, objects and routines in the classroom.

### **Zionism**

- ✓ Students will develop a connection to and a love for Eretz Yisrael and *Medinat Yisrael*.
- ✓ Students will learn the *mitzvot* pertaining to *Eretz Yisrael* and will participate in celebrations relating to the land, including *Yom Ha'atmaut* and *Yom Yerushalayim*.

**Music**

The Pre K student should:

- ✓ Recognize rhythm, beat and other patterns in music through body movement.
- ✓ Interpret music through body movement.
- ✓ Gain a familiarity with modern Jewish music.