

Daycare Age Group Information Document



Our knowledgeable and experienced staff are committed to creating a world-class early learning and care environment for our community. We take a strength-based approach to learning in which children, parents and educators are co-learners.

Our emergent, play-based curriculum promotes the development of skills in literacy, math, social/emotional and fine/gross motor skills. Our goal is to prepare your child for all the educational opportunities that will arise throughout their lives. We follow the requirements of the Ministry of Education ELECT framework, and the provincial pedagogy for early learning, "How does learning happen?".

The J in JCare

Hebrew and Jewish studies are a unique, beloved feature of our program. We help our young learners explore their Jewish identities through songs, crafts, storytelling, observing traditions and celebrating holidays in both English and Hebrew. Our students learn about the values of Tikkun Olam and Chesed which helps them to understand their places in their families and community.

Sheva is an early learning framework created by the Jewish Community Centre Association that promotes a dynamic vision of excellence in Jewish early childhood education. As a Sheva learning centre, we are in partnership with JCCs across North America. Our Sheva Program is guided by seven principles:

- Children as constructivist learners
- Early Childhood Directors as visionaries
- Early Childhood Educators as professionals
- Families as engaged partners
- Environments as inspiration for inquiry
- Discover CATCH as Sh'mirat Haguf (taking care of our body)
- Israel as a source and resource.

What Makes us Different?

- Enriched curriculum including swimming, music, sports, Hebrew
- Hebrew incorporated into the daily program
- Jewish studies
- Weekly Shabbat program
- A team of more than 50 dedicated early childhood education professionals
- Eco park playground
- Kosher meals
- Daily personalized communication through Lillio Phone App
- Professional cleaning/disinfection of classrooms
- Discounted family membership to the JCC
- On-site security
- Be a part of our larger JCC community

Infant (up to 18 months) and Toddlers

Our infants and toddlers will benefit from the best education and developmental play while receiving the nurturing and loving support they need to feel at home.

Our multi-sensory, hands-on curriculum for little learners introduces activities that are fun, engaging, educational and vital to development. Experimenting with a variety of activities encourages curiosity, builds language and social skills, and develops fine/gross motor skills. Our educators are partners in play, facilitating a positive learning experience. At this early age, children begin to enjoy their Jewish identities through the celebration of holidays and traditions. Toddlers are exposed to Hebrew words, songs, and stories throughout the day.

Our Program Includes:

- English and Hebrew instruction
- Jewish studies
- Specialist-led music class
- Sports with Sprout Sport (Toddler Class Only)
- Healthy, age-appropriate kosher snacks and lunch
- Shabbat program
- Daily communication using Lillio App
- Two hours outdoor play daily (weather permitting)
- Hebrew classes

What We Learn

Cognitive/ Math Skills

Infants and toddlers focus on exploring cause and effect with beginner-level problem solving skills. The educators support the children in following routines, sorting objects, using tools, and matching pictures.

Language/ Literacy Skills

Children will build receptive language through listening to stories, learning new vocabulary, asking questions, and engaging in conversations that are meaningful to them and the world around them. Phonological awareness is cultivating by identifying sounds in the environment, such as animal sounds, traffic noises, music, and human speech.

Social/Emotional Skills

Infants and toddlers develop social and emotional skills by engaging in self-directed play which, over time, leads to group play. They begin to take the point of view of others and are able to start waiting for their turn. Over this period, toddlers engage in pretend play through which they learn to get along with each other, make compromises, resolve conflicts, and regulate emotions and behavior.

Gross Motor Skills

Daily outdoor time and gross motor activities are important parts of our curriculum. Our weekly sports program enhances the development and self-confidence of our students. Toddlers will develop their walking, running, jumping and balance skills.

The children in the infant/toddler group will be developing the physical skills needed to become active and healthy members of their community.

Life Skills

Infants and toddlers learn life skills by beginning to dress and undress themselves. Children in this stage are also beginning to eat using utensils and cups independently.

Sensory Skills

Children are provided many opportunities to use their senses in exploration and to question the functions of different objects and materials. They will be encouraged to use sensory skills to identify and differentiate properties and materials.

Sports

Our sports program develops children's gross motor skills and increases their self-confidence. The children will learn different sports, games, and teamwork while having fun! Sports take place in the studio or the gymnasium.

Music

Our music class focuses on the Jewish holidays and traditions. The children will learn new songs and vocabulary related to the celebration of the Jewish holidays.

Hebrew

Our Hebrew program develops the communication and vocabulary in Hebrew, the children will learn the Hebrew language through songs, dance and Israeli literacy.

Preschool (2 ½ to 4 years)

As children embark on their life journey, early education is of vital importance, as it lays the foundation for future academic, social and emotional success. Each child's specific strengths, needs and developmental goals are identified. Our educators set goals through individual attention and play-based learning activities in a positive learning environment. Educators employ a holistic approach to the children's social, emotional, physical, creative, and cognitive development.

Learning environments are designed to invite inquiry. Children explore language, math/cognitive, art, music, science and other activities. Learning spaces are designed with the intention of provoking wonder, curiosity, intellectual engagement and creativity.

Children continue to explore their Jewish identity and values through the celebration of holidays and traditions. Our preschoolers are progressing in their knowledge and understanding of the Hebrew language.

Our Program includes:

- English and Hebrew instruction
- Jewish studies
- Specialist-led music class
- Sports with Sprout Sport
- Instructional Recreational swim
- Hebrew classes
- Healthy, age-appropriate kosher lunch and snacks
- Shabbat program
- Daily communication using Lillio App
- Two hours outdoor play daily (weather permitting)

What We Learn

Cognitive/ Math Skills

Preschoolers explore mathematical materials and concepts to support an increasing awareness and understanding of math.

They begin to demonstrate mathematical skills like sorting, classifying, patterning, building, and comparing. Using a hands-on, problem-solving approach, children start to think logically and use language that represents this thinking. Our educators set up activities that promote counting, number recognition, and amount comparison.

Language/Literacy Skills

Language and literacy-building opportunities are woven into the curriculum in all programming areas. To promote an ongoing interest in reading, writing and communication, a rich variety of materials are provided that encourage vocabulary building, letter recognition, questioning and recall skills.

Social, Emotional and Life Skills

Recognizing the connection between emotional health and cognitive development, we put a strong emphasis on social skills. Our educators facilitate activities that help build self-esteem and confidence.

The ability to recognize and express emotions helps children learn how to make friends and resolve conflicts. Students learn to appreciate each other's differences and strengths and how to work together.

Gross Motor Skills

Daily outdoor time and gross motor activities are an important part of our curriculum. At this stage children also work on enhancing their skills in climbing, galloping, hopping on one foot, using balls, and riding trikes. The goal for this age group is to increase coordination, speed and endurance.

Swimming

Our swimming program is designed to develop gross motor skills while gaining confidence in the water. The children enjoy instructional recreational swim in the Indoor Aquatic Centre. The teacher ratio in the pool is 1:5 and an instructor are employed to be always in the water with the children. Safety in the pool is our number one priority so children always wear life jackets.

Sports

Our sports program develops children's gross motor skills and increases their self-confidence. The children will learn different sports, games, and teamwork while having fun! Sports take place in the studio or the gymnasium.

Music

Our music class focuses on the Jewish holidays and traditions. The children will learn new songs and vocabulary related to the celebration of the Jewish holidays.

Hebrew

Our Hebrew program develops the communication and vocabulary in Hebrew, the children will learn the Hebrew language through songs, dance and Israeli literacy.

School Readiness

Love of learning develops through hands-on activities and classroom experiences. Our educators promote school readiness by teaching:

- Pencil grasp
- Recognition of ABC and numbers 1-10
- Ability to recognize their written name
- Know the letters of their name
- Use scissors

Self-help skills will be practiced daily by:

- Encouraging children to self-serve during meals*
- Independently using the washroom
- Dressing and undressing
- Follow 3 step directions

Junior and Senior Kindergarten (age 4 to 6 years)

Building on a strong foundation of learning, our Junior and Senior Kindergarten graduate program helps prepare children for a positive start to their school journey. Our program builds on their individual interests, strengths, needs, and curiosities. By challenging each child's unique abilities, school readiness is enhanced. Our Kindergarten program prepares children with the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need to succeed in the future.

Students reap the rewards of our Hebrew-immersive environment during this stage of their development, demonstrating a strong understanding of Jewish identity, Jewish values, and Hebrew language.

Our Program includes:

- Enhanced English and Hebrew instruction
- Jewish studies
- Specialist-led advanced music class
- Sports with Sprout Sport
- Swim lesson (3 terms)
- Hebrew classes
- Healthy, age-appropriate kosher lunch and snacks
- Shabbat program
- Daily Communication using Lillio App
- Two hours outdoor play daily (weather permitting)

Language / Literacy

Literacy is a vital part of our Kindergarten curriculum. Our graduates use letter recognition, sounds, and sight words to begin to practice reading and writing. The program is designed to allow our educators to work in small groups to strengthen letter knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyming, letter formation, vocabulary, and early reading skills.

Children practice writing daily. They are encouraged to participate in independent writing activities to practice using frequently used words. We teach literacy behaviors that enable reading, writing, and the ability to make sense of a variety of texts. Language, words, examples of sentences, books and writing materials are available to the children in all areas throughout the classroom.

Cognitive/ Math Skills

The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides children with activities and tools to help them problem solve and analyze information. We infuse math into everyday activities and practices. Mathematical activities will challenge the children to estimate, explore, compare, and to use creative thinking towards a problem-solving approach. Children learn how to think about and understand numbers, count from 1-100, add and subtract, identify patterns, sequences, and quantities, and sort, classify, build, and compare two/three-dimensional shapes.

Science

Through extended experiment projects and exploring the natural environment, the Kindergarten children will gain an understanding of the world around them and learn to respect their natural environment.

Social/Emotional

The Kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on independence, self-regulation and willingness to take responsibility. Children develop critical thinking skills, learn how to problem-solve in a social context, and begin to understand the world around them. They learn to communicate with others in a respectful way by practicing turn taking and sharing, which in turn enhances their sense of self-esteem. Educators plan activities that encourage positive engagement with peers and create leadership opportunities. Using a variety of methods including dramatic play, art, and music, children demonstrate a sense of identity and model positive self-image. Our Kindergarten students learn how to help one another and how to behave in a variety of social circumstances. Children are given choices and opportunities to make decisions for themselves and the group, through which they learn the concept of personal responsibility.

Physical/Well being

Physical education is vital at this stage as children begin to demonstrate an awareness of their own health and well-being. The children participate actively and regularly in a variety of gross-motor activities such as swim, movement, and yoga, helping to create a strong awareness of themselves and their bodies.

Swimming Lessons

Children participate in instructed swim lessons once a week, led by a professional RED CROSS instructor, in our saltwater pool. By the end of each term, many children complete and move on to the next swim level.

School Readiness

Love of learning develops through hands-on activities and classroom experiences. Our educators promote school readiness by working with children to teach them the following:

- Longer attention span
- Letter recognition and sounds (uppercase and lowercase)
- Number recognition 1-20
- Understanding numbers 1-100
- Writing letters and numbers
- Writing own name and age
- Begin reading - connecting sounds together
- Self-help skills will be practiced and developed daily using problem solving, critical thinking and independent play
- Get ready for outside activities: zip jackets and put on gloves, snow pants, boots and hat
- Tidy up after themselves
- Washroom hygiene

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Shinshinim

Participate in fun Israeli culture activities. The Shinshinim are young Israeli leaders who have just finished high school and come to Toronto for one year to volunteer in our community. They are hosted by local families and will engage our JCC members and participants by teaching about Israel, Israeli culture, and bringing ruach.