

## **Chabad of Greenwich Kindergarten Program Overview and Curriculum**

### ***Program Overview***

The kindergarten program at Chabad of Greenwich has been designed with the objective of fostering the education and development of the whole child. Our goal is to provide a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment, in which children are able to express themselves and learn new concepts through exploration, experimentation and discovery.

Our program is designed to promote each child's intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth. Experienced teachers guide the children through this formative year, encouraging active learning and problem-solving, while facilitating friendships.

The comprehensive kindergarten curriculum includes Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Technology, Art, Music and Movement and Physical Education. An emphasis on Jewish Studies & the Hebrew Language lays the foundation for a positive and knowledgeable Jewish interaction with the world and a strong Jewish identity.

### ***Language and Literacy***

The daily language and literacy program includes language, reading and writing activities. Children learn through both classroom instruction and real-time application. Lessons include foundational concepts like letters, syllables, words and sentences, and are enriched with rhymes, stories, games and activities. Read-aloud stories are an essential part of each day. In kindergarten, children are encouraged to begin handwriting, writing words as they sound. As they begin to learn to read, write and spell, the

focus for this age group is for children to find motivation and feel encouraged to try.

### ***Math, Science and Technology***

With a focus on experiential learning and critical thinking, our math, science & technology curriculum is both student-focused and engaging. Every day, we seek to spark the inquisitive minds of the children, through hands-on learning and discovery. Children are encouraged to develop their curiosity about the world around them and to make observations. As they are introduced to math, science and technology, children develop organized and analytical thinking as well as problem-solving skills.

### ***Jewish Studies and Hebrew***

We strive to impart a love and appreciation of our religion and culture in each child, as well as to nurture and develop Jewish Values, with an emphasis on kindness and respect. The classroom is a community in which Jewish values are modeled and reinforced. The Hebrew Language is introduced through songs, games and simple conversation. We hope to promote a love for Israel, all things Jewish and an involvement in the performance of the Mitzvot of the Torah. Hebrew language - Ivrit - is used in both formal and informal instruction. Areas of Jewish Studies include Daily Prayers, Mitzvot, Shabbat, Weekly Torah Portions and an in-depth learning of Jewish holidays, with an integration of art, music and drama.

### ***Art***

The art program encourages creative discovery and the freedom to express original ideas. Children grow and develop during weekly art instruction from our Art Specialist. Throughout the year, children are encouraged to explore a broad variety of mediums and techniques, including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, sculpture and more.

## ***Music and Movement***

### **Music:**

Music sparks excitement and adventure in children! Our music program introduces musical concepts and skills in a fun, engaging environment. We encourage group singing and rhythmic movement through activities like song-games and dance.

Children are frequently exposed to music, both in the classroom and during specialized music classes, led by experienced Music Instructors.

Music is embedded into weekly lessons and integrated with the celebration of Jewish Holidays and Shabbat. Children learn essential cooperation skills by learning to dance and sing songs during holiday festivities.

### **Movement:**

The purpose of movement classes is to facilitate creativity, imagination, risk-taking and confidence. Through movement, students integrate the brain and body, developing balance, coordination and spatial awareness.

## ***Physical Education***

Gym games and outdoor activities are often the highlight of the day for the children. Our experienced Sports Coach, Anatolie Vartosu, will keep everyone active and engaged in a variety of interactive indoor & outdoor activities and games.

Our physical education program allows students to tackle developmentally appropriate exercises. Sports provide an opportunity for the children to explore spatial orientation, refine motor skills, develop hand-eye coordination, and discover body awareness, balance and rhythm.

As part of our focus on the whole child, our physical education program is designed to promote social and emotional skills, teamwork and problem-solving. Our gym educators provide opportunities for children to learn a variety of skills in conjunction with our overarching curriculum. Students learn the importance of sharing, taking turns, responsibility, respect and cooperation.