

Thematic Curriculum Information

Chabad Preschool bases our curriculum on a thematic approach to learning. Units of study are ideal for integrating concepts across the curriculum areas and giving learning greater context and meaning. The most powerful themes of the curriculum are derived from the Jewish holidays, the seasons, the natural world, the study of self, family and community, and from other subjects that are relevant to a children's lives.

Teachers and children explore themes through a variety of sub-topics. Additional areas of focus emerge to reflect the interests of the children. From these subjects, teachers design classroom activity plans. The process of delving into a topic - asking questions, experimenting, making discoveries, and being deeply invested in the quest for understanding is incredibly valuable to a child's development. We aim to choose topics that pique children's interests and then give them many opportunities to explore as we facilitate their investigations and weave in learning concepts.

Curriculum plans incorporate each of the subject areas: language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and movement. The activities also engage multiple styles of learning: visual, aural, verbal, social, solitary, logical, and physical. Teachers also consider each domain of child development when creating classroom plans - cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual and creative.

Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Back to School</u>: getting to know each other and our classroom, rules and routines, health and safety procedures, class bonding activities. • <u>Rosh Hashana</u>: apples, pomegranates and exotic fruits, bees/hives/honey, shofar, calendar/cycle of the year. • <u>Yom Kippur</u>: making good choices, saying sorry for mistakes, prayer, going to Synagogue. • <u>Sukkot/Simchat Torah</u>: building/construction, sukkah, Lulav/Etrog, the gifts of Torah, Biblical heroes, Mitzvot, Hebrew letters. • <u>Shabbat</u>: Shabbat traditions, being a guest and being a host, days of the week, days of creation, Shabbat blessings and songs. • <u>All about me</u>: our bodies, our five senses, feelings and emotions, our names, our families, self-expression, growing up, taking care of ourselves. • <u>Fall</u>: changes in the environment and the weather, leaf exploration, migration/hibernation, cycle of seasons. • <u>Thanksgiving</u>: being thankful, Native American culture, appreciating other ways of life, fall harvest, American map and flag, Thanksgiving feast and traditions.
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community</u>: manners and courtesy, working together, taking care of each other, our school community, our neighborhood, the people who work in our town. • <u>Winter</u>: weather and temperature, plants and animals in the winter, snowflakes, ice and frost, winter sports and activities, the Arctic. • <u>Tu B'Shvat</u>: kinds of trees, parts of trees, seeds, things we get from trees, caring for the environment, forests, trees through the seasons. • <u>Transportation</u>: land/air/water vehicles, roads and streets, traffic signs, safety, places we go. • <u>Chanukah</u>: standing up for what you believe, it's okay to be different, Dreidle, Menorah, the properties of oil and wax, sources of light, giving and receiving gifts, fried foods: latkes and sufganiot. • <u>Food</u>: nutrition, food groups, digestion, different tastes, food sources, food processing, blessings over food, international foods, spices, planting and growing, raw versus cooked, taste sour/sweet/bitter/salty). • <u>Animals</u>: land and water habitats, animal adaptations, tame versus wild, animal coverings: fur/feathers/scales, endangered species, what animals eat, how animals communicate, how animals help us. • <u>Bugs</u>: insect types, insect body parts, insect habitats, insect life cycles, insect sounds, the role of bugs in the ecosystem. • <u>Purim</u>: puppetry and theatre arts, kings/queens and castles, instruments: wind/percussion/string, graggers and other non-traditional instruments, orchestras and bands, costumes and masks, Megillah, Hamentashen, Mishloach Manot.
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Spring</u>: bulbs/buds/blossoms, flowers and flowering trees, rain and the water cycle, new animal and insect life during the spring, weather and temperature changes. • <u>Passover</u>: Matzah and bread, Seder plate, steps of the Haggadah, the Four Questions, slavery versus freedom, pride in Jewish traditions. • <u>World</u>: maps, the globe, ways of life in other places, the solar system, being a part of a global community. • <u>Israel</u>: sites and cities, flag and map, Magen David symbol, Hebrew language. • <u>Shavuot</u>: receiving the Torah, responsibility of Mitzvot, being humble, mountains, spring harvest.
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>End of year</u>: how we've grown, things we've learned, memories from the year, yearbook, graduation, moving onto another class or school. • <u>Summer</u>: beach, shells, sandcastles, summer sports and activities, the sun and shadows.