

## **PreKindergarten Philosophy**

(adopted 2011)

At Torah Academy, we believe that early childhood education is an integrated experience with developmentally appropriate learning and activities where instruction is provided by highly qualified, licensed persons in an environment of care and support.

### **Goals**

- Provide a learning experience for all children regardless of economic, linguistic, cultural, physical, learning, or emotional challenges.
- Recognize that children develop at different rates and that each child is unique in their development, growth, and skills.
- Engage in purposeful play through teacher planning to promote a rich learning experience and engage the senses that help children explore their environment.
- Integrate learning activities across all domains.
- Build and understand relationships with peers, teachers and family members in their immediate environment and the community.
- Actively engage parents in the early education of their children to increase the probability of success in the elementary classroom and later learning.
- Acknowledge and respect children's backgrounds, heritage, culture and linguistic differences.
- Provide a learning program that is guided by research and effective practice to strengthen instruction and educational experiences across all settings with a highly qualified, licensed instructor.
- Enhance school readiness and lay the foundation for later achievement.

## **PreKindergarten Objectives**

### **DOMAIN: APPROACHES TO LEARNING**

- Children actively and confidently engage in play as a means of exploration and learning.
- Children approach tasks, activities and problems with creativity, imagination and/or willingness to try new experiences and activities.
- Children exhibit curiosity, interest and willingness in learning new things and having new experiences.
- Children actively engage in problem solving.
- Children demonstrate persistence.

### **DOMAIN: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH**

- Children use their senses to assist and guide learning.
- Children demonstrate coordination and control of large muscles.
- Children combine a sequence of large motor skills with and without the use of equipment.
- Children demonstrate eye-hand coordination and dexterity needed to manipulate objects.
- Children engage in a variety of physical fitness activities.
- Children demonstrate personal care and hygiene skills.
- Children demonstrate awareness and understanding of healthy habits.
- Children demonstrate awareness and understanding of safety rules.

### **DOMAIN: SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Children recognize themselves as unique individuals having their own abilities, characteristics, feelings and interests.
- Children regulate their responses to needs, feelings and events.
- Children demonstrate and continue to develop positive relationships with significant adults.
- Children develop positive relationships with peers.
- Children understand and follow routines and rules.
- Children adapt to change.

### **DOMAIN: COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE, & LITERACY**

- Children demonstrate that they recognize familiar sounds, understand spoken language, and listen purposefully.
- Children demonstrate that they speak for a variety of purposes, using appropriate content and mechanics of spoken language.
- Children demonstrate that they understand what they observe.
- Children demonstrate their ability to express their ideas using a variety of media.

- Children demonstrate their ability to express their ideas using a variety of media.
- Children demonstrate motivation to read.
- Children demonstrate phonological/phonemic awareness by listening to and identifying language sounds.
- Children demonstrate knowledge of the alphabetic principle (identifying letters and sounds).
- Children demonstrate word recognition skills.
- Children demonstrate knowledge and awareness of book/print concepts.
- Children recognize informational text, stories and poetry.
- Children demonstrate background knowledge and vocabulary skills.
- Children demonstrate comprehension of printed material.

### **DOMAIN: MATHEMATICS**

- Children will demonstrate an understanding of numbers, ways to represent numbers, relationships among numbers and the number system.
- Children will understand the beginning principles of addition and subtraction.
- Children demonstrate understanding of geometric and spatial relations.
- Children understand directionality, order and position.
- Children will sort, classify and organize objects by size, number, attributes and other properties.
- Children will demonstrate knowledge of measurement.

### **DOMAIN: SCIENCE**

- Children ask questions and make predictions based on observations and manipulation of things and events in the environment.
- Children test predictions through exploration and experimentation. Children generate explanations and communicate conclusions regarding their experiments and explorations.
- Children observe and describe characteristics of Earth and space.
- Children observe and describe characteristics of living things.
- Children acquire knowledge about the physical properties of the world.

### **DOMAIN: SOCIAL STUDIES**

- Children develop a basic awareness of self as an individual.
- Children will demonstrate an awareness of self within the context of family.
- Children develop and understanding of self within the context of community.
- Children demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between people, places, and regions.

- Children will develop and understanding of how people and things change over time and how to relate past events to their present and future activities.
- Children demonstrate an understanding of roles, rights, and responsibilities.
- Children begin to learn the basic civic and democratic principles.
- Children develop a basic understanding of economic concepts.
- Children demonstrate interest and awareness about a wide variety of careers and work environments.

#### **DOMAIN: ART**

- Children will express themselves and represent what they know, think, believe and feel through visual arts.
- Children respond and react to visual arts created by themselves and others.
- Children will express themselves by engaging in musical activities.
- Children respond to and react to musical activities.
- Children will participate in a variety of dramatic play activities to represent fantasy and real life experiences.
- Children will express themselves through creative movement.

#### **DOMAIN: TECHNOLOGY**

- Children express an understanding of technology systems.

