

Beth El Religious School

What to Expect in Your Child's Kittah Gan (Kindergarten)

Curriculum:

JEWISH IDENTITY & COMMUNITY

Children in *Gan* are introduced to the concept of Jewish community through the study of the Synagogue via its symbols and architecture.

HEBREW

Children in *Gan* develop Hebrew language through prayers, songs and games. They learn to recite the Hebrew alphabet, name ritual objects and concepts associated with holidays. They develop a classroom vocabulary that is reinforced regularly.

HOLIDAYS AND MITZVOT

Children in *Gan* are introduced to the basic Jewish Holidays as they occur, learning the customs and traditions associated with each holiday. Through art, music, cooking and storytelling, the children prepare for each holiday and bring ideas and projects home to enhance the celebration of each holiday.

BIBLE

Your child will discover important Biblical heroes and stories of the Torah and the Prophets through a variety of modalities. Through role playing and creative movements and projects, your child will learn the lessons of the Torah.

PRAYER & THEOLOGY

Your child will be guided and encouraged to think and talk about God and to find a higher meaning for the things and creatures that inhabit our world.

PRAYER GOALS

Your child will be learning many new prayers this year. These prayers will be routinely reviewed each

and every week, so not to worry. The prayers are learned through familiar melodies and by rote. A list is provided below. Recordings, transliteration and translations of all these prayers can be obtained from the Beth El website (www.bethelsnj.org).

T'FILLOT (PRAYERS)

Modeh Ani,
Ma Tovu (1st line),
Hallelu (song),
Shema (1st line)
Taking Out the Torah: Torah Torah (song),
Eitz Chayim Hi
Adon Olam (refrain)

BERACHOT (BLESSINGS)

Bread - Ha'Motzih
Wine - Ha-'Gafen
Cake - Mezonot
Candy, other - Sh'Hakol
Fruit - Ha'etz
Vegetables - Ha'Adama
Shabbat Candles - L'hadlik Ner Shel
Chanukah, Shehecheya-nu
Pesach: Ma Nishtanah, Matzah, Maror

MUSIC

Your child will learn many new songs in Hebrew and/or English each week with Cantor Leon Sher.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

You and your child will learn about the person for whom your child was named and then present it to the class.