

OUR JEWISH CURRICULUM

At Apples and Honey Preschool, our Jewish curriculum forms part of our daily program.

SHABBAT

Every Friday we bake challah and have a group kiddish. The children learn customs and tradition as well as helping to develop a sense of community. We light the candles and drink grape juice. We have a weekly visit from Rabbi Nicole or Cantor Ted, singing and reading to the children about different Jewish themes.

Each theme encompasses the outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework . Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by belonging, being and becoming. From before birth children are connected to family, community, culture and place. Their earliest development and learning takes place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of the world.

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

CHANUKAH

The children learn of the miracle of the single amount of oil that lasted for 8 days.

Example Activities

- mixing water and oil
- design a Hanukkiah, Chanukah cards, making dreidels
- Building Hanukkiah with lego
- play with dreidels and chocolate money
- Puzzles
- reading of books
- Cooking –doughnuts, latkas and chocolate coin cookies

PASSOVER

Learning about the Feast of Passover to commemorate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses

Example Activities

- Sand pyramid
- Seder plate making
- Chicks "R" Us
- Matzah factory

- Singing the Mah-Nishtana song
- Afikoman cover making
- Pantomime of the story
- 10 plagues finger puppets
- Passover menu provided with children involved in preparation of afternoon tea

PURIM

We teach the children the story of Esther, the hero of Purim, and Haman (the villain) who wanted to exterminate the Jews

Example Activities

- Making costumes
- Purim dress up party
- Make shakers and masks
- Puppet theatre
- Learning songs with the Rabbi/Cantor
- Stories
- Making Hamantaschen biscuits

TU BISH'VAT

“New year of the trees”

The children learn about the “ecological” holiday that reminds us of our connection to earth and to our role as caretakers of the environment

Example Activities

- Plant native trees
- Nature Walks
- Nature crafts
- Growing vegetables
- Cooking with a variety of fruit

ROSH HASHANAH

Learning about the Jewish New Year

Example activities

- Making New Year cards
- Shofar factory
- Rabbi bringing in the Shofar
- Bee Keepers
- Songs
- Eating apple and honey

SUKKOT

Teaching of the years the Jews spent in the dessert on their way to Israel

Example Activities

- Build a Sukkah
- Create decorations for the Sukkah
- Excursion to the Sukkah of NSTE

- Stories and puzzles
- Learning about the stars
- Eating in the Sukkah

SIMCHAT TORAH

Celebrating the Jewish love of study and the Torah

Example Activities

- Making torah scrolls
- Creating flags
- Visit the synagogue
- Dancing

Throughout the year, the children also learn about Israel, Yom Haatzmaut (Israel's independence Day), Tzedakah (charity), Tikkun Olam (acts of kindness to help prepare the world) and community.