



Park Avenue Synagogue

Early Childhood Center

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# Our Educational Philosophy

Park Avenue Synagogue Early Childhood Center facilitates, strengthens and encourages the social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and Jewish life of the young child. Our program teaches the whole child by providing activities that emphasize literacy and language (reading readiness), math, science, and motor skill development – all in a warm and engaging environment.



# The Learning Experience

At PASECC, we believe that each child is unique and comes to us with his or her own individual pattern and timing of growth as well as personality, learning style, and family background. We believe that children are born with a built-in capacity for growth, and that they naturally seek stimulation and variety. Young children learn best through concrete experiences and active participation. Over the years at PASECC, we deliberately spiral the skills we teach; at each age, learning goals are carefully determined.



# The Play Experience

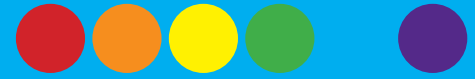
We strive to provide a program that is developmentally appropriate for every child. We offer many opportunities for play and active exploration within a clearly defined, challenging yet non-competitive and nurturing environment. We believe that young children learn best through play. The central focus of the teachers' role is to support a child's play so that it becomes as constructive and elaborate as possible.



# The Jewish Experience

Children at PASECC learn about their Jewish identity and take pride in being Jewish. We teach them through daily experiences, rituals, and traditions that define us as a community. Children recite *brakhot* (blessings), listen to torah stories, celebrate Shabbat and observe other significant Jewish Holidays. The PASECC community also connects our students to Israel and its importance to our people.

Our Jewish Life Curriculum focuses on Jewish values such as *Hesed* (showing kindness and helping others), *Hakhnasat Orhim* (welcoming guests), *Haver Tov* (being a good friend), and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). These values are fully integrated into our curriculum, so that children learn that acting Jewishly is part of everything we do.



# The Parent Experience

We encourage parents to take part in the life of the school and synagogue in a variety of ways both in and out of the classroom. Parents share in classroom celebrations, cooking sessions, parent-teacher conferences, and more. Outside the classroom, parents volunteer to help in the PASECC library and to assist during the Shabbat Dinner, annual Hanukkah Book & Gift Fair, Purim Mishloach Manot Project, the PASECC Spring Benefit, Vicki K. Wimpfheimer Mitzvah Day, and many other events.



# The PAS Community Experience

We view your child's time in the ECC as one step in your family's lifelong journey at PAS. We present many opportunities to join with other families in our community at Shabbat dinners, the Purim Carnival, VKW Mitzvah Day, and other synagogue activities. Through these experiences, children and their families develop relationships with the PAS clergy. As your interests and schedule dictate, families are also welcome to take classes and to volunteer with the arms and committees of Park Avenue Synagogue.



Thank you for considering the PAS Early Childhood Center as a critical step in your child's educational journey.

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Photography courtesy of Marissa Zackowitz and Karen Smul





Park Avenue Synagogue תל אביב תש"פ

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