

# **CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KINDERGARTEN GENERAL STUDIES**

For many youngsters, the entry into kindergarten marks the beginning of “real school”. The JKHA program is a child-centered one that addresses the emotional, social, academic and spiritual development of each student.

In a warm, nurturing Torah environment, the child is guided through formal and informal learning opportunities to build a solid foundation for Jewish scholarship, reading, writing and mathematical knowledge. The affective part of our curriculum is equally important. Our goals also focus on the development of each child’s feeling of self-worth, empathy for others and participation in a cooperative learning and play atmosphere. Children in our kindergarten classes are immersed in Hebrew language and develop both a love and understanding of basic Torah values, the people and land of Israel.

## **Math**

A student should be able to:

- ✓ Recognize numerals
- ✓ Count to 100
- ✓ Understand one-to-one correspondence
- ✓ Count by 2’s, 5’s, 10’s
- ✓ Tell time by the hour
- ✓ Recognize coins and values
- ✓ Understand patterns
- ✓ Use a variety of representational models to demonstrate understanding of numbers.
- ✓ Locate and name days of week, months of year.
- ✓ Use the calendar to interpret numeric, geometric, and spatial patterns and sequences.
- ✓ Classify concrete or pictorial items using different (color, size, shape, etc.) attributes.
- ✓ Understand spatial and size relationships.
- ✓ Solve simple word problems.
- ✓ Compare sets of items represented concretely and pictorially.

## **Language Arts\Literacy**

A student should be able to:

- ✓ Recognize upper and lower case letters.
- ✓ Demonstrate awareness of sounds, sequence of sounds in spoken words, and letter-sound correspondences.
- ✓ Identify sounds in initial, medial and final position in spoken words.
- ✓ Blend words with short vowels.
- ✓ Read high frequency words.
- ✓ Recognize classmates’ names.
- ✓ Use pictures to aid understanding of stories read aloud.

- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of a simple story. Make predictions about text (character, setting, plot).
- ✓ Develop vocabulary through meaningful concrete experiences.
- ✓ Use vocabulary/grammar in own speech.
- ✓ Express ideas through words and illustrations.
- ✓ Develop a love of literature through exposure to various literary forms (poetry, rhyme, stories, fairy tales, etc.).
- ✓ Use the “writing process” to create original stories.
- ✓ Use resources to facilitate communication in writing: inventive spelling, a variety of word walls, classroom dictionaries, words on display in classroom, etc.
- ✓ Develop oral communication, self-confidence and self-awareness through “Star Attraction” opportunities.
- ✓ Use multi-sensory cues and resources to learn and practice correct formation of letters.

### **Science**

A student should explore through observation, formation of hypotheses and hands-on experiences:

- ✓ Characteristics of the seasons of the year and relate to the revolution/ rotation of the earth.
- ✓ Different types of leaves, why leaves color, parts of plants.
- ✓ Animal habitats, habits, patterns of migrations and hibernation. Life cycle of various animals.
- ✓ Rules of safety; classroom, home, fire, car, etc.
- ✓ General rules of hygiene, health and nutrition.
- ✓ Properties of water in various states of matter.
- ✓ Creatures and plants in the ocean.
- ✓ The Five Senses—and how they inform us about our world.

### **Social Studies**

Students in Kindergarten should:

- ✓ Meet and understand the role of various members of the school community including: principal, school psychologist, nurse, librarian, custodian, guards, lunch staff, etc.
- ✓ Understand the importance and key facts related to noteworthy dates in the secular calendar including Columbus Day, Election Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day.
- ✓ Understand the most important documents/symbols in our nations history including the the Constitution, Statue of Liberty, American Flag.
- ✓ Become familiar with a variety of jobs/occupations through presentations by parents or outside speakers.
- ✓ Develop pride as an American through participating in grade level celebrations, exposure to stories, songs and poems.

### **Library Skills**

A student should be able to:

- ✓ Listen attentively to stories being read aloud.
- ✓ Ask the librarian for guidance in choosing a book.
- ✓ Demonstrate the correct procedure for selecting and borrowing a book.
- ✓ Properly take care of borrowed books.

- ✓ Locate and identify the cover/dust jacket, title, author, illustrator, spine and illustrations.

### **Life Skills**

Children should:

- ✓ Continue to develop their knowledge of nutritious food choices.
- ✓ Continue to develop self help, personal and oral hygiene skills through interactive play, drama, guest speakers and daily practice.
- ✓ Further develop their awareness of safety rules and behaviors in class, on the playground, outdoors and in the home.
- ✓ Identify community helpers that assist in maintaining a safe environment.
- ✓ Develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring. They will gain awareness of their own, and their classmates' feelings. They will begin to demonstrate effective listening