

About our Kindergarten Program

Play is the avenue by which children learn. Play is the work of childhood and it is through play that children come to know themselves, their peers, and their environment.

Nurturing loving, trusting relationships at school are necessary for children to feel secure to confidently pursue their interests and to take risks. The atmosphere we provide is one of freedom within carefully defined limits, with a balance of structured and unstructured activities. We guide the children to cooperate with each other to be responsible citizens of our classroom. We build their self-esteem by providing tasks at which they can succeed and help them achieve the acceptance and friendship of others. We encourage them to develop their unique talents and abilities to empower them to take subsequent steps in the educational process with ease and confidence.

Our Kindergarten classes are arranged around a variety of learning centres which are planned to give children the opportunity to **EXPLORE**, **DISCOVER**, **CREATE**, and **LEARN**. These centres provide the children with the opportunity to make choices, interact with materials and peers, and participate in imaginative play. Children will learn to share and problem-solve, develop physical and motor skills of coordination and manipulation, and expand their vocabulary and communication skills. Throughout the day they learn to be responsible for themselves and respectful to others.

Careful planning and preparation go into each teacher's day so that the needs and strengths of each child are maximized. Although teaching styles, classroom schedules, and personalities vary from classroom to classroom, all teachers work collaboratively and share the commitment to provide the very best education.



Tuition Assistance Available

Hours

By the 2011-12 school year, all kindergartens in BC will be full-day. To plan for this change, we are offering families the option to enroll in a full day kindergarten for the 2010-11 school year. The 3:20 dismissal time will coincide with the release of children in grades 1-7. For those parents who choose the full day kindergarten, students will have the opportunity to extend their learning through play and theme-based activities designed to further enhance their learning experience at VTT.

Kindergarten at Vancouver Talmud Torah



Vancouver Talmud Torah
998 26th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2G1
604.736.7307
www.talmudtorah.com
info@talmudtorah.com



Cathy Lowenstein, Principal
Adam Gelmon, Director of Admission
Tammy Kalvari, Registration
Information

Our Philosophy

At Vancouver Talmud Torah we are fortunate to have one of the finest preschool and kindergarten centres in the province. Our well-equipped classrooms and creative playground provide an exciting, stimulating environment in which our students may learn and explore the world around them. Our excellent facilities enable us to provide a wide range of activities to meet the needs of all the children, enabling them to achieve the fullest measure of growth. All activities presented are carefully planned to promote the perceptual and conceptual development of the children, essential for later academic success.



Our philosophy is to educate children to be thoughtful, considerate and creative individuals. We encourage them to experience the joy of their Jewish traditions, values and culture. By teaching the children to treat others as they would treat themselves, we start them on the road to being a “*mensch*.” Children should be equipped with the tools and skills to help them meet the challenges of our complex society. Through the learning process at Talmud Torah, we believe they will be better able to make responsible choices as Jews—and Canadians—in today’s world.

An integrated curriculum

We believe in a theme-based approach to learning. Through an intense focus on one subject area, the exploration expands to multiple domains. Thus a unit on spiders will include reading, science, math, computers, art and even baking! This philosophy drives all lesson plans to make the learning meaningful, relevant and integrated. We also strive to follow children’s interests taking each area of interest as far each child is able to go, and provide as many first-hand related experiences as possible. Field trips enlarge the children’s life experience.



Early Literacy

We are proud of our reading readiness and phonological awareness programs which provide early screening for all kindergarten students. Through games and seat work, the children learn the letter names and sounds providing the groundwork necessary for reading and writing success. Regular visits to our excellent school library, as well as a take home reading program, support our early literacy initiatives.

Judaics

Our Judaic program incorporates Hebrew language readiness activities. Woven into each day are Hebrew language experiences. The children are introduced to the Hebrew Alef-Bet. They learn to recognize and print their Hebrew name. The children learn greetings, how to count, names of colours and familiar objects, blessings for food, and songs and prayers. Every Friday the children enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat, experiencing all the traditional rituals of welcoming the Sabbath. All religious holidays are observed and interpreted at their level. Bible stories are told and discussed. All this is done in the spirit of joy and spontaneity. Recognizing that the earliest experiences of life are often the most lasting, we strive to foster a warm and positive attitude in the children towards their Jewish heritage.



Art, Music & Drama

A wide range of art activities are available each day to provide the spiritual satisfaction of creating. These activities help the children develop initiative to work independently or in a group and foster confidence in working with creative media that will give them life-long gratification.

The Kindergarten children enjoy a weekly program of music and song with a music specialist as well as weekly classes with our drama specialist. Music activities are also part of our daily program.

All kindergarten students perform in our annual Chanukah concert, a much anticipated community event.



Physical Development & Education

Kindergarten children play outdoors every day—even in the rain! Large muscle co-ordination is developed through the running, jumping, balancing, climbing, and digging activities available. They learn to perceive spatial relationships and judge distance. Small motor skills are developed through play, crafts and seat work. The children participate in a weekly program with a qualified PE instructor. While learning and following the rules of the games, children acquire the important values of good-sportsmanship.