

About our Senior 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 students 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 we 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 Senior Kindergarten classes are arranged around a variety of learning centres which are planned to give students the opportunity to **EXPLORE, DISCOVER, CREATE, and LEARN**. These centres provide the students with the opportunity to make choices, interact with materials and peers, and participate in imaginative play. Students 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 student are maximized. The Senior Kindergarten faculty work collaboratively and share the commitment to provide the very best education in full compliance with the BC Ministry of Education curriculum.



Senior Kindergarten at Vancouver Talmud Torah



Hours

All our Senior Kindergarten classes are full-day and the day runs parallel to our Grade 1-7 program, with an 8:20 a.m. start and 3:20 p.m. dismissal.

How to Enroll

1. Visit inquire.talmudtorah.com; 2. Then go to apply.talmudtorah.com; 3. Once the application has been reviewed and accepted, you will be sent a unique link to enroll. Please contact Tammy Kalvari at 604.736.7307, x3402 or tkalvari@talmudtorah.com if you have any questions.

Vancouver Talmud Torah
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Cathy Lowenstein, Head of School
Leigh Ariel, Principal of Primary Grades
Jennifer Shecter-Balin, Director of
Admissions & Communications
Tammy Kalvari, Admissions Manager

Financial Aid Available for Qualifying Families

Our Philosophy

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



Our philosophy is to educate students to be thoughtful, considerate and creative individuals. We encourage them to experience the joy of their Jewish traditions, values and culture. By teaching the students to treat others as they would treat themselves, we start them on the road to being a “*mensch*.” Students should be equipped with the tools and skills to help them meet the challenges of our complex society. Through a myriad of learning opportunities at Vancouver Talmud Torah, our goal is to foster independence, self-regulation, social responsibility and global awareness in all of our students.

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 bears and arctic animals will include reading, science, math, technology, art and even baking! This philosophy drives all lesson plans to make the learning meaningful, relevant and integrated. We also strive to follow students' curiosity—taking interests as far each child is able to go—and provide as many first-hand related experiences as possible, including field trips which enlarge the students' life experience.



Early Literacy

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

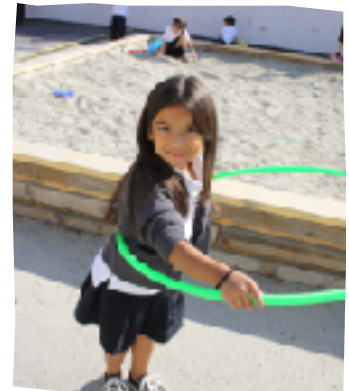
Judaics

Our Judaic program incorporates Hebrew language readiness activities. Woven into each day are Hebrew language experiences. The students are introduced to the Hebrew Alef-Bet, where they learn to recognize the letters and gain familiarity with the sounds. The students learn greetings, how to count, names of colours and familiar objects, blessings for food, and songs and prayers. Every Friday the students enjoy *Kabbalat Shabbat*, experiencing all the traditional rituals of welcoming the Sabbath. Religious holidays are observed and interpreted at their level and bible stories are told and discussed—all done in a 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 students towards their Jewish heritage.



Physical Development & Education

Senior Kindergarten students play outdoors twice a day, even in the rain! Large muscle coordination is developed through the running, jumping, balancing, climbing, and digging activities available. Students learn to perceive spatial relationships and judge distance. Small motor skills are developed through play, crafts and independent work. The students participate in a weekly program with a qualified physical education specialist. While learning and following the rules of the games, students acquire the important values of good-sportsmanship.



Art & Music

A wide range of art activities are available each day to provide the spiritual satisfaction of creating. These activities help the students 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 Senior Kindergarten students enjoy a weekly program of music and song with a music specialist, as well as movement classes satisfying the Ministry of Education's Daily Physical Activity requirement.