

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.
Early Childhood Center
Mamela Curriculum

Our older toddlers learn to develop confidence and feel safe in their pre-school environment. Children are well cared for and nurtured.

Below is an outline of the key elements included in the curriculum designed to meet the following areas of development:

- I. Socialization
- II. Emotional
- III. Cognitive
- IV. Physical

I. SOCIALIZATION

- *Free play in learning centers – cooperative play begins to develop
- *Learning to take turns
- *Informal circle time – beginning to memorize simple songs and finger plays
- *Modeling of behavior
- *Learning the names and characteristics of familiar people and objects
- *Learning to anticipate activities by reinforcement of transition times
- *Art activities with three or four children and a teacher
- *Self-help –washing and drying hands, learning to use the toilet, pouring juice, cleaning up after meals, learning to take off/put on jackets and shoes
- *Creative expression
- *Developing appropriate conflict resolution skills

II. EMOTIONAL

- *Self awareness
- *Validation and naming of emotions – beginning to express needs and feelings using words
- *Smooth transitions
- *Positive reinforcement and praise – thinks of self in positive ways

III. COGNITIVE

A. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- *Books, stories, rhymes, finger plays and flannel board stories
- *Answering open ended questions
- *Singing

- *Identifies at least six or seven colors
- *Uses conventional manners, saying please and thank you
- *Speaks in sentences

B. MATH

- *Counting to 10 or higher
- *Number concepts – big/little, more/less
- *Recognizes and names 4 shapes or more
- *Plays matching games

C. SCIENCE

- *Animals
- *Seasons
- *Weather
- *5 Senses
- *Body Awareness – names at least 5 parts of the body
- *Cooking

IV. PHYSICAL

A. GROSS MOTOR

- *The climber
- *Gym
- *Creative Movement class
- *Outdoor play
- *Walking up and down stairs

B. FINE MOTOR

- *Arts & Crafts
- *Cooking – mixing, stirring
- *Manipulatives – blocks, puzzles, pegs, stringing buttons and beads
- *Beginning to cut with scissors
- *Pouring juice/milk
- *Sand and water play, play dough
- *Musical instruments

Our units vary each year. Some of our favorites are:

1. Friendship Week
2. Mother Goose Rhymes
3. Teddy Bear Week
4. Colors and Shapes
5. Noah's Ark
6. Community Helpers
7. Transportation
8. Nature Week
9. Seasons
10. Jewish and National Holidays