



Jewish Enrichment Center

Hyde Park

Welcome!

This packet contains enrollment information for the 2017-2018 school year. Register online at jewishenrichment.org/enroll.

What days should we choose? How many days should we choose?

Choose the days that work best for your family. We foster community among the children no matter what days of the week they're enrolled on. Plus, we offer several age-based and Center-wide opportunities throughout the year for children and families to get to know each other.

Our project-based curriculum makes it possible for children to ask the questions that matter to them, and to wrestle with their questions in ways they prefer, in a community of peers, as part of the long tradition of Jewish conversation. Every session here reflects the mix of children and ideas present that day; every session offers something new. Children whose primary afterschool is the Enrichment Center, who attend three or more sessions/week, get to dive more deeply into ideas and projects, grow more comfortable with Hebrew, and have a more relaxing, playful experience. While two sessions/week is the minimum for children in kindergarten and older, many of our children come three or more days, and children are welcome to attend as many sessions/week as the family wants.

Will some days fill?

We expect Sundays and Wednesdays to fill quickly. Currently enrolled families will have one week to secure their preferred sessions before enrollment opens to the general public.

What is *Shirah/Tefillah* (Singing/Prayer), and why should I attend with my child?

At the end of every session, the entire community gathers together for *Shirah/Tefillah* (Singing/Prayer). We sing in Hebrew and English, and children learn the words to the primary Jewish prayers through song. It's a time to hear special news from the day, get a sense of the big ideas your child is grappling with, and find out what to ask your child(ren) about at home. We strongly encourage parents to make *Shirah/Tefillah* (Singing/Prayer) a regular part of your weekly schedule.

Shirah/Tefillah (Singing/Prayer) is held from 11:25 - 11:45 AM on Sunday mornings and 5:25 - 5:45 PM on weekday afternoons. All adults welcome – grandparents, caregivers, too!

Why do children attend at least two days/week starting in kindergarten?

The kind of creative, communal, long-term project work we do with children requires them to trust each other, collaborate, and take risks. It takes time to build and sustain the kind of relationships that supports this intensive work.

In addition, children need to revisit their thinking about the current theme at least twice during the week in order to continue developing their ideas. To learn Hebrew in a natural way (i.e., through the auditory environment, through play), children need to hear and play with the language multiple times/week.

Do you teach Hebrew? Does my child need to learn Hebrew?

Hebrew is embedded into the auditory and visual environment, and in the routines of our day, so children pick up the language naturally. Children of all ages play games in Hebrew, often choosing how they would like to engage with the language that day. Hebrew is woven into our physical playtime for younger children, and older children master Hebrew prayers. Comfort with the Hebrew language, and a working vocabulary, are essential to developing confidence in owning the texts of our centuries'-old Jewish conversation. A child who owns these texts can play with Judaism, creating their own meaning in Jewish life and community.

Why do you have multiage groupings?

The Jewish Enrichment Center offers multiage groupings in all *kevtzot* (groups). With a broad range of ages, children learn from other children through role modeling, allowing younger children to be stimulated intellectually by older children and older children to develop self-reliance and responsibility. Multiage groupings also promote friendship between children of various ages, which strengthens the community as a whole. Multiage groupings make it possible for children see that each one of us brings strengths and a unique perspective to our community.

Do you offer Jewish enrichment when school is closed?

Yes! We have full days of Jewish enrichment when local schools are out, called Special Days. We also run full weeks of Jewish Enrichment Camp during selected school breaks. We spend our Special Days and Camp days playing and exploring a Jewish person (e.g., Marc Chagall) or idea (e.g., the tastes of Passover), culminating in big project by the end of the day or week.

Since the majority of our enrolled families come from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, we hold Special Days on Lab's parent-teacher conference days, and also on several national holidays. Please check our website for a full schedule of Special Days and Jewish Enrichment Camps for 2017-2018.

Do you offer summer programming?

In Summer 2017, we're meeting on two Sunday mornings to play in parks around the city, including some Enrichment Center-style fun. Plus, we send children mail over the summer, with Hebrew games and puzzles and cards. We believe children should get to keep their Hebrew skills sharp over the summer, and see their Enrichment Center friends, too.

We will also be hosting an early childhood pajama party for new and returning children. Keep your eyes out for an email with more information in the near future!

Jewish Enrichment Camp will run for two weeks at the end of the summer, from August 21 - 25, 2017 and also August 28 - September 1, 2017. Register online today at www.jewishenrichment.org.

Will my child be ready for a Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah?

Children at the Jewish Enrichment Center develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence to design their own lifelong relationship with Judaism. Starting at an early age, children develop a relationship with the Torah, learn to express their own ideas about Torah and Judaism, and dialogue respectfully with peers. Children learn Hebrew, and they learn Jewish prayers and about Jewish prayer services. By the time children reach the age of Bar or Bat Mitzvah at the Jewish Enrichment Center, they have acquired foundational Jewish literacy, and *also* developed their own ideas about what Judaism means to them.

Can we celebrate our child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah with the Jewish Enrichment Center?

Yes. We partner with families to design a B-Mitzvah (a gender neutral term) experience that reflects the family's Jewish life as well as the individuality of the child. Our process proceeds within a family's lifelong relationship with Judaism and aims to launch children into the next stage of responsibility in their lives. Children who celebrate becoming B-Mitzvah with the Jewish Enrichment Center engage in a personalized, long-term project emerging from their strengths and interests.

Kevutzah (Group) Information By Age

For Ages 0 - 3 and their grown-ups: *Shalom Chaverim* (“Welcome, Friends!”)

Shalom Chaverim children come on Sunday mornings and attend with a grown-up.

- Sundays 9:00-11:45 AM

Description: Stories, singing, arts, playing, and more. Our youngest children explore Judaism through the textures, sounds, sights, smells, and rhythms of the Jewish year. *Shalom Chaverim* meets on Sundays only. Families may join in communal singing and prayer at 11:25 AM.

For Ages 3 - 4: *Shorashim* (“Roots”)

Families with a nursery *Shorashim* child may enroll for any number of days, any days of the week.

- Sunday: 9:00 AM-11:45
- Monday: 2:00-5:45
- Tuesday: 2:00-5:45
- Wednesday: 1:00-5:45
- Thursday: 2:00-5:45

Description: *Shorashim* children explore Judaism and Hebrew language through play, creative arts, music, construction, science, stories, games, and more. Long-term projects developed from children's interests let *Shorashim* children express their own ideas about Torah and community. *Shorashim* children may attend one or more sessions weekly. *Shorashim* children use the toilet with minimal assistance and attend class without their grown-ups.

For Kindergarten and First Grade Children: *Nitzanim* (“Buds”)

Families with a *Nitzanim* child enroll for at least one A and at least one B day. Families may enroll for any additional days as long as they have already enrolled for at least one A and one B day.

A Days: Sunday and Monday

B Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

- Sunday (A): 9:00 AM-11:45
- Monday (A): 2:00-5:45
- Tuesday (B): 2:00-5:45
- Wednesday (B): 1:00-5:45
- Thursday (B): 2:00-5:45

Description: *Nitzanim* children develop Jewish literacy through long-term, project-based exploration of Jewish ideas and Hebrew language. *Nitzanim* express themselves through art, drama, spoken word, and writing, and build listening, thinking, and questioning skills while learning to value multiple perspectives. *Nitzanim* also offers a more structured introduction to Hebrew language and writing for children who are ready. *Nitzanim* children attend two or more sessions weekly.

For Second, Third, and Fourth Grade Children: *Anafim* (“Branches”)

Families with an *Anafim* child may choose one of the options below.

Option 1: Sunday and Wednesday

Option 2: Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Option 3: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Option 4: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

- Sunday: 9:00 AM-11:45
- Monday: 3:00-5:45
- Tuesday: 3:00-5:45
- Wednesday: 2:00-5:45
- Thursday: 3:00-5:45

Description: *Anafim* children continue to acquire foundational Jewish literacy through long-term, project-based learning, with greater independence and choice in projects and materials. *Anafim* children explore personal connections with Judaism and Jewish community while focusing on skills for text interpretation and community dialogue. Hebrew language learning in *Anafim* supports deeper engagement with text and each other.

For Fifth Grade Children: *Alonim* (“Oak Trees”)

*See below for a note about *Alonim* schedule for 2017-2018.

Description: *Alonim* children continue to develop foundational Jewish literacy while grappling with a broader range of texts and historical information. Children experience more choice in their projects. *Alonim* children are familiar with *chavrutah* (partner text study), and use the process comfortably to explore their own relationship with Judaism. *Alonim* children decode Hebrew with ease, and children work on reading fluency and on grammatical principles for translation. A major focus of the *Alonim* Hebrew curriculum is Jewish prayer and the structure of Jewish prayer services.

For Sixth and Seventh Grade Children: *Madrachim* (“Leaders”)

*See below for a note about the Middle School schedule for 2017-2018.

Description: Middle school children engage in Jewish learning on topics relevant to preteen and early teen development, and enjoy greater choice in the focus of their Hebrew learning. A weekly Middle School Workshop lets middle schoolers explore ideas that interest them in Judaism through personal, long-term projects. Some middle schoolers focus on their B-Mitzvah Torah portion in Middle School Workshop, offering them a chance to explore their Torah portion in-depth, Enrichment Center-style. An optional *Madrachim* program teaches middle schoolers skills for leading creative, dynamic Jewish life, through weekly leadership training and as assistants in younger children’s groups.

**Alonim*/Middle School Schedule for 2017-2018

In recognition of the even more packed schedule of a middle schooler (as if it’s even possible), the Jewish Enrichment Center 5th – 7th grades will have an evening session available on one evening/week, in addition to two session days. That is, we’ll still require attendance of a minimum of two sessions/week, but one option will be in the evening. We’ll choose our session days based on parent feedback. Email us at jewish.enrichment.center@gmail.com with input and questions about the *Alonim*/Middle School program for the 2017-2018 school year.

What is *chavrutah* (partner text study)? (For 1st-7th Grade Children)

Chavrutah literally means “partner,” but describes the relationship between two individuals who study and explore Jewish text together, with the text serving as third partner in this relationship. The role of a *chavrutah* (study partner) is to challenge his or her partner to consider new perspectives and deepen understanding of the text and each other. At the Jewish Enrichment Center, children use the *chavrutah* format to wrestle with Jewish text and explore self, peer, Judaism, and the world, while simultaneously practicing skills for dialogue and synthesis of ideas. Through *chavrutah*, children begin to take ownership of Jewish texts, and know their own voice to play an important role in Judaism and Jewish community.

Tuition Information for 2017-2018

Jewish Enrichment Center tuition remains lower than most other local afterschools, and significantly lower than Jewish afterschool programs around the country.

We are sensitive to families' financial situations. Tuition support is available, and we'd like to spend every dollar of our tuition support fund, every year. To receive tuition support, please contact Rabbi Larry Edwards for a confidential conversation (LLE49@comcast.net). He will gladly meet privately with you and make appropriate arrangements. Your privacy will be respected.

Registration Fee:

For 2017-2018 school year:

- \$50/child: Pre-enrollment for Current Families (May 23 – May 29)
- \$50/child: Enrollment Opens for All Families (May 30)
- \$100/child: Rolling Enrollment (After July 24)

Shalom Chaverim

Includes 26 Sundays, dedicated early childhood educator, and all family programs. No registration fee required.

For 2017-2018 school year: \$300

Sunday/Afterschool Tuition

Includes entire school year of regular Sunday and weekday sessions, project materials, family and community programs, your child's online portfolio, electronic resources for working on Hebrew at home and for singing Enrichment Center music, and planned Saturday sessions for older children. See below for tuition for Special Days (full days of Jewish enrichment) and Jewish Enrichment Camp. Sunday/afterschool tuition may be paid in full by August 15, 2017, or in two equal installments, by August 15, 2017 and by January 15, 2018.

For 2017-2018 school year*:

- 1 day/week: \$1200 (available only for nursery children)
- 2 days/week: \$2300
- 3 days/week: \$3200
- 4 days/week: \$4200

*Congregation Rodfei Zedek subsidizes its member families' participation. Contact the Jewish Enrichment Center for more information.

Transportation

From the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools:

The Jewish Enrichment Center will arrange transportation from the Lab Schools to the Jewish Enrichment Center. The entire cost of this transportation, plus a nominal administrative surcharge, is passed to families enrolled at Lab. Families will pay, per child, for transportation according to the number of days they use the service. The cost of transportation will be announced in August.

From Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School:

The yearly cost to families for walking children from Akiba-Schechter is \$100/year, per family.

From Additional Schools:

We do not yet operate a transportation program from other schools. We're happy to help arrange carpools. Please contact the Jewish Enrichment Center so we can put you in touch with other families from your child's school.

Special Days/Jewish Enrichment Camp

Special Days and Jewish Enrichment Camp run 8:30 - 3:30. Late Afternoon runs from 3:30 - 5:45, and on Fridays until 5:15. Tuition for Special Days is due 48 hours before the Special Day, and tuition for Jewish Enrichment Camp is due two weeks before Camp.

Special Day Regular Tuition (registered more than 48 hours before a Special Day):

- \$65/day first child
- \$55/day second or third child
- Early Arrival and Late Afternoon: \$30/day per child
- Early Arrival only: \$10/day per child, with cap of \$20 per family
- Late Afternoon only: \$25/day per child

Special Day Last-Minute Tuition (registered within 48 hours of a Special Day):

- \$75/day first child
- \$65/day second or third child
- Early Arrival and Late Afternoon: \$30/day per child
- Early Arrival only: \$10/day per child, with cap of \$20 per family
- Late Afternoon only: \$25/day per child

Full week of Jewish Enrichment Camp Regular Tuition (registered more than two weeks before Camp):

- \$325/week first child
- \$275/week second or third child
- Late Afternoon: \$25/day per child

Full week of Jewish Enrichment Camp Last-Minute Tuition (registered within two weeks of Camp):

- \$375/week first child
- \$325/week second or third child
- Late Afternoon: \$25/day per child

Financial Support

The Jewish Enrichment Center offers financial support to families. Confidential conversations are held with Rabbi Larry Edwards (LLE49@comcast.net). Neither the Director nor the Advisory Board plays a role in determining financial support for families.

Financial support is available for up to 50% of a family's tuition, including registration fees. Financial support is available for up to 50% of Special Days and Camp tuition.

Withdrawals and Refunds

By submitting the enrollment form, you are confirming the commitment to pay tuition and fees to the Jewish Enrichment Center for the **full academic year**. No refunds will be given for children withdrawing from the program, or for days absent due to illness, holidays, snow days, or vacation. When possible, we encourage families to send children on a different day during the same 7-day period so children's learning stays on track.

Additionally, cancellations for special programming, such as Camp or Special Days, must be made **24 hours in advance**. We reserve the right to charge full price for the day if the Jewish Enrichment Center does not receive a cancellation notification in writing.

We reserve the right to request withdrawal of a child in certain circumstances. Tuition may be refunded proportionally in such cases.