



Preschool Monthly Themes 2018 - 2019

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p><u>Beginning of year:</u> getting to know each other and our classroom, rules and routines, health and safety procedures, class bonding activities :)</p> <p><u>Rosh Hashana:</u> apples, pomegranates and exotic fruits, bees/hives/honey, shofar, calendar/cycle of the year.</p> <p><u>Yom Kippur:</u> making good choices, saying sorry for mistakes, prayer, going to Synagogue.</p> <p><u>Sukkot/Simchat Torah:</u> building/construction, sukkah, Lulav/Etrog, the gifts of Torah, Biblical heroes, Mitzvot, Hebrew letters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b></p> <p><u>Animals:</u> land and water habitats, animal adaptations, tame versus wild, animal coverings: fur/feathers/scales, endangered species, what animals eat, how animals communicate, how animals help us.</p> <p><u>Bugs:</u> insect types, insect body parts, insect habitats, insect life cycles, insect sounds, the role of bugs in the ecosystem.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p><u>All about me:</u> our bodies, our five senses, feelings and emotions, our names, our families, self-expression, growing up, taking care of ourselves.</p> <p><u>Community:</u> manners and courtesy, working together, taking care of each other, our school community, our neighborhood, the people who work in our town.</p> <p><u>Fall:</u> changes in the environment, leaf exploration, migration, hibernation, cycle of the seasons.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <p><u>Purim:</u> puppetry and theatre arts, kings/queens and castles, instruments: wind/percussion/string, graggers and other non-traditional instruments, orchestras and bands, costumes and masks, Megillah, Hamentashen, Mishloach Manot.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> being thankful, learning from other cultures and ways of life, Native American culture, harvest foods, map of the United States, American flag, preschool Thanksgiving feast.</p> <p><u>Shabbat:</u> Shabbat traditions, being a guest and being a host, days of the week, days of creation, Shabbat blessings and songs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <p><u>Pesach:</u> Matzah and bread, Seder plate, steps of the Haggadah, the Four Questions, slavery versus freedom.</p> <p><u>Spring:</u> Bulbs/buds/blossoms, flowers and flowering trees, rain and the water cycle, new animal and insect life during the spring, weather and temperature changes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <p><u>Chanukah:</u> standing up for what you believe, it's okay to be different, Dreidle, Menorah, the properties of oil and wax, sources of light, giving and receiving gifts, latkes/donuts.</p> <p><u>Food:</u> nutrition, food groups, digestion, different tastes, food sources, food processing, blessings over food, international foods, spices.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <p><u>Transportation:</u> land/air/water vehicles, roads and streets, traffic signs, safety, places we go.</p> <p><u>World:</u> maps, the globe, ways of life in other places, the solar system, being a part of a global community.</p> <p><u>Israel:</u> sites and cities, flag, Magen David, Hebrew.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <p><u>Winter:</u> weather and temperature, plants and animals in the winter, snowflakes, ice and frost, winter sports and activities, the Arctic.</p> <p><u>Tu B'Shvat:</u> tree types, tree parts, seeds, things we get from trees, caring for trees, forests, trees through the seasons.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p><u>Shavuot:</u> receiving the Torah, responsibility of Mitzvot, being humble.</p> <p><u>End of year:</u> how we've grown, things we've learned, memories from the year, yearbook, graduation, moving onto another class or school.</p>



## **Thematic Curriculum Information**

Our preschool curriculum is based on a thematic approach to learning. Units of study are ideal for integrating concepts across the curriculum areas and giving learning greater context and meaning. The most powerful themes of the curriculum are derived from the Jewish holidays, the seasons, the natural world, the study of self, family and community, and from other subjects that are relevant to a children's lives.

Each theme is explored through a variety of sub-topics. Additional areas of focus emerge to reflect the interests of the children. From these subjects, classroom activity plans are designed. The process of delving into a topic; asking questions, experimenting, making discoveries, and being deeply invested in the quest for understanding is so valuable to a child's development. We aim to choose topics that pique children's interests and then give them ample opportunity to explore as we facilitate their investigations and weave in learning concepts.

Curriculum plans incorporate each of the subject areas: language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and movement. The activities also engage multiple styles of learning: visual, aural, verbal, social, solitary, logical, and physical. As well, each domain of child development is considered when creating classroom plans: cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual and creative.

\* Please find a calendar of the thematic units for the year and examples of sub-topics that will be explored on reverse side.