

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



**ECP will be closed from December 24 – January 1 for Winter Recess.
ECP re-opens on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.**

A highlight this past month was the involvement of our children in National Book Week during which a different person read to the children each day. We thank our readers who included Police Officer Strehle and Fire Fighter Mulelli (both from New Rochelle), the Teva (Nature) Lady, Rabbi Goodman and Dr. Karin Sadow. Thank you one and all for inspiring our children with your readings.

- The halls of the Early Childhood Program are filled with fall colors, fragrances and children's voices. In addition to nature walks and watching the leaves fall, the children collected, painted and pasted them. They watched a pumpkin being cut open, smelled it, touched it, counted and planted the seeds, made pumpkin bread, cookies and cupcakes. They also listened to stories and sang songs related to this beautiful season. Election Day, too, was integrated into the curriculum, with children experiencing voting at their level e.g. voting for a favorite leaf color or flavor of ice cream. They are now very busy preparing for Thanksgiving and Chanukah.
- Both these holidays provide us with opportunities to teach the children about Tzedakah. During this time, it is important to make them aware that there are other families who have less than they do, and how meaningful it is to do their part in helping these people. As mentioned last month, the ECP has organized its usual yearly Tzedakah project involving the collection of new hats, gloves and scarves for children and adults. As in past years, these items will be our Chanukah donation to children at the Westchester Jewish Community Services. Our collection box is outside the ECP office and the last day of the donation is December 7. It also makes the experience of giving more real to the children if they personally deposit the clothing in the box.
- The theme of this past month's Tot Shabbat also centered on "Giving." Under the direction of Betty Moallem, the children made Tzedakah Boxes, sang songs and talked about when to collect Tzedakah. The children agreed to donate their collection to the Bronx Zoo in the Spring (date TBA). Thanks again to Betty.
- The Board of Jewish Education (BJE) workshops that our ECP Staff attended at the JCC of Harrison, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conference that Audrey Mlotek attended in my stead in Chicago, were filled with informative sessions related to all aspects of early childhood. These sessions reinforced our philosophy and also provided stimulating new ideas for our curriculum.
- Registration is in progress for the 2008-2009 school year, covering all our programs with many prospective new parents visiting our school. Our new KE program is rapidly filling, and we encourage you to sign up soon if you are interested. Please call and make an appointment to visit the school if you have not yet seen it in operation.
- Thank you to all for your good wishes on the birth of our first grandson Derek Jacob – We can't wait for him to come and enjoy the program at Temple Israel!! Also we are so happy that Linda is feeling better after her appendectomy. We missed her being around while she was healing. I truly appreciate everyone's help and support during this time.
Chag Sameach to all.

— Wendy Shemer, Director, Early Childhood Program

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ECP CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING

TOP ROW, LEFT:

2s Thanksgiving Show

TOP ROW, RIGHT:

2s Thanksgiving Feast

MIDDLE ROW, LEFT:

3s Paint Turkeys

MIDDLE ROW, RIGHT:

4s Paint Turkeys

BOTTOM ROW, LEFT:

A Policeman Reads to the Children

