

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER – Q & A

What age can children enroll?

We are licensed to serve children 18 months old through 4 years of age, and Miami-Dade County's policy states children must have turned that age by September 1st to enroll. We will consider children who turn of age mid-year, but such admissions are granted at the discretion of me, the director, and the classroom teacher.

Will teachers change diapers?

There are diaper-changing stations in the toddler and 2 year old classrooms. Teachers are diligent about official health regulations and wear latex gloves and dispose of diapers in a covered can, which our maintenance staff empties frequently. Parents bring in supplies for their children but don't worry; we'll send a note home if your child is running low.

What are the pre-school hours?

School begins at 8:30 a.m. for everyone. For the 18-month old class, dismissal is at noon. Twos have the option of either a noon or 2:00 p.m. dismissal, which is when the classes end for our 3's and 4's. We also provide after care until 5:30 Mondays thru Fridays.

What are the class sizes?

Our class sizes are small and our teacher-to-student ratios significantly exceed state requirements. We have two teachers in each classroom at all times. There are seven to eight 18-month-old toddlers in each class, 12-13 students in the two-year-old classes, 14 students in the three-year-old classes and 15 children in each Pre-Kindergarten classroom.

What is the snack policy?

Beth David provides a nutritious snack for the children mid-morning, and mid-afternoon for those who stay in aftercare. These are included in the tuition costs.

Does the school provide a hot lunch?

No, but we work with kidsdeli.com, which delivers fresh and nutritious lunches every day except Wednesdays — that's when the school holds its Pizza Day fundraiser. Of course, many parents prefer to pack their own lunches but regardless of where the food comes from, it absolutely must be parve/dairy. Meat or fish without scales is not permitted on campus. Our campus observes the laws of *kashrut*.

Is there an after-school program for pre-school?

Yes, pre-schoolers can participate in our after-care program which lasts until 5:30 p.m. After a nutritious snack, children play outdoors or do a craft project. We also have enrichment classes for children as young as two-years-old. Some offerings include cooking, drama, soccer, computers and science.

Do the children wear uniforms?

No, pre-schoolers wear whatever they like, but we do require closed-toe shoes and socks. We have Beth David T-shirts that the children are encouraged to wear on Shabbat to develop a sense of school *ruach* (spirit).

Do boys wear kippot?

Children are not required to wear kippot, but may if they wish.

How much Judaism is taught in pre-school?

In addition to participating in a Shabbat ceremony Friday mornings, teachers discuss the significance of each Jewish holiday and celebrate each throughout the calendar year. Learning about our rich, Jewish heritage is a hands-on experience as Gordon School children build a sukkah on Sukkot and fry potato latkes for Chanukah. They wear Purim costumes and participate in other holiday celebrations with much joy!

What will my child learn in pre-school?

Our wonderful faculty recognizes that children learn at their own pace. Play is the vehicle of learning at this time in their lives, and the objectives are clearly outlined in the curriculum. Ours integrates both Judaic and secular content, and recognizes that a child's social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual growths are all closely connected.

Do parents get involved in the pre-school?

Yes, we have a very active Parents' Association, which holds its meetings on the first Monday of the month. As part of that effort, parents chair events throughout the year such as the Book Fair, Purim Carnival, Chanukah Carnival and an annual Fundraiser. The Association kicks off each year by hosting a cocktail party designed to introduce everyone.