## **Our Mission and Philosophy**

## Our Mission

Netivot Shalom Preschool's mission is to offer a high quality Jewish Early Childhood Education program that provides a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for young children. We promote the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of young children and a commitment to parent involvement and family education.

Our professional staff encourages exploration and growth in a well-equipped environment that is stimulating, safe, consistent and nurturing. We strive to enhance each child's natural curiosity and love of learning. Our program provides opportunities for each child to master tasks that are appropriate to his or her individual level of development.

## Philosophy and Methods

Just as our synagogue is the creation of its members, the Congregation Netivot Shalom Preschool is a creation of our shul community. Our Preschool program provides the young child with a learning environment rich in Jewish content, and a focus on the Hebrew language. The curriculum emphasizes learning as an interactive process, where children learn through a concrete, play orientated approach.

Our philosophy is that children learn through active exploration and interaction with adults, other children and the environment around them. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia and emergent curriculum philosophies of education, our approach is to provide children with the opportunity to explore, question, practice and pretend in order to discover the world around them. We see children as curious, competent individuals who are able to build theories and discover for themselves. Their teachers support them through observation, then documenting and planning activities to further extend their learning process.

We believe that each child is a unique person who possesses an individual pattern of timing for his/her own growth and development. We accept and respect each child's differing levels of ability, development, and learning style, and we design our curriculum to reflect these differing abilities. Our curriculum is relevant, emergent and intertwined with Jewish life and practice.