Welcome to Kindergarten!

University Synagogue's kindergarten program will provide a safe, nurturing atmosphere with the goal of creating stimulating experiences in which students will grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. The kindergarten program will involve opportunities for students to accomplish new tasks and master new skills based on Common Core standards.

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

This year, in Language Arts, we will focus on beginning reading skills such as increasing fluency, phonological awareness, and reading comprehension. Our program will include foundational skills such as word recognition, decoding, and print concepts. Kindergartners will be able to identify basic story elements, and will understand basic punctuation. We will work on writing skills in our new kindergarten journals and handwriting.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

In Social Studies, we will learn about holidays and traditions, good citizenship, and explore different cultures from around the world. Kindergarteners will discover continents, landforms, and oceans, and learn about voting and elections. We will explore maps and globes, timelines, compasses, and legends. We will introduce concepts such as past vs. present, needs vs. wants, and good and services.

**SCIENCE**

In Science, we will be learning about animal habitats and plants. We will also be observing the life cycle of a butterfly. Our kindergarten program will provide fun and engaging hands-on science labs where students can actively participate in investigation and discovery. We will build our own volcano and watch it ‘erupt.’ Students will learn about making a hypothesis, collecting data, and forming conclusions.

**MATH**

will be developing a conceptual understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction that can be used as a foundation for later years. Students will learn different strategies for addition and subtraction such as ten frames and number lines. Kindergarteners will be using our new consumable workbooks. We will be using math manipulatives to introduce money recognition, 2-D and 3-D shapes, telling time, measurement, and concepts such as estimation and greater than and less than.

University Synagogue’s kindergarten program has a rich, cumulative, core curriculum which instills values such as civic duty, respect, kindness, responsibility and incorporate Jewish values. We will spend time outside each day doing organized physical games and activities. We will incorporate a variety of music into our day with songs and instruments. Kindergarteners will have the opportunity to engage in activities involving dance, movement, and yoga. Art will also be embedded in our curriculum, through projects involving drawing, cutting, tracing, gluing, and coloring, that will also help build fine motor skills. Our goal is to educate the whole child through a comprehensive curriculum and prepare our students to be successful in first grade! We look forward to getting to know your child and your family!
**Kindergarten Teachers**

**Liz Do**
Liz recently moved back to California after living in Florida for the past eight years. Originally from Arizona, she comes from a family of educators, and knew she wanted to be a teacher from a young age. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Arizona State University. Liz then moved to California, where she met her husband and earned a master’s degree from San Diego State University in Curriculum and Instruction for Elementary Education. After teaching both elementary school and preschool in California, Liz moved to Florida in 2012.

In Florida, Liz worked in a Jewish preschool for five years while her own children attended the preschool there. Liz also taught elementary school in Florida, and became active as a leader in her children’s girl scout troop. Liz has three children, and she enjoys camping trips, the beach, and spending time outdoors with her family. Liz loves to travel to new places and try new restaurants. She is excited to be back in California, living close to family again.

Liz believes that the biggest gift she can share with your child this year is a love for reading.

She believes that setting a strong foundation in reading from an early age is critical to developing a lifelong relationship with books. Her goal is to make a significant impact on each child in her class, and to create self-directed, lifelong learners. Liz is looking forward to piloting University Synagogue’s kindergarten program this year.

**Netta Hazan**
Netta has come to University Synagogue with a vast and diverse teaching history. Netta completed her Bachelor’s Degree at Bet Beri University in Israel, where she majored in Children’s Literacy. Netta then worked as an elementary school teacher for seven years, working with age groups from Kindergarten to 6th grade.

Netta and her husband moved to the United States in 2005 with their 3-year-old daughter. In the following year, they welcomed their second daughter. Netta enjoyed being an active mom in her daughters’ lives.

After several years of tutoring and working with children at home, Netta decided to go back to school and study Early Childhood Education. She knew she wanted to work at a synagogue because of the importance of passing on the Jewish tradition. Netta believes firmly in the philosophy that every child is different and deserves to be treated as a unique individual.

In her free time, Netta loves to read, listen to Israeli music, cooking, and eating.
Kindergarten Daily Schedule

Please note this schedule is flexible and may be modified depending on special events/activities.

9:00-9:10 a.m.  Drop off, Morning Arrival, Temperature Check, and Handwashing

9:10-9:40 a.m.  Morning Circle Time, Calendar, Read Aloud, Character Building
               (On Fridays, morning circle will include Shabbat Celebration)

9:40-10:00 a.m.  Handwashing and Morning Snack

10:00-11:30 a.m.  Language Arts Block
                  (Guided reading, reading centers, journal writing, phonics, writer’s workshop)

11:30-12:00 p.m.  Handwashing and Lunch

12:00-12:50 p.m.  Math
                  (Whole group instruction, independent work in centers, using manipulatives)

12:50-1:20 p.m.  Science/Social Studies – alternating MWF/TTH

1:20-1:50 p.m.  Music/Art - alternating MWF/TTH

1:50-2:20 p.m.  P.E., movement/yoga, handwashing

2:20-2:30 p.m.  Pack Up, Parent Pickup, collect/distribute homework (Mondays/Fridays)