



## **Mission Statement**

Douglas Family Early Childhood Center at Sinai Temple is committed to the cognitive, emotional, physical, social and spiritual development of our children and their families. Through developmentally appropriate practices, we provide quality child-centered education based on Jewish values. We instill a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

## **Educational Philosophy**

In our developmental approach to early childhood education, we recognize that children are natural learners and that they acquire knowledge at different rates and at different times. Children learn by interacting with their environment and through the relationships they develop. By creating trusting relationships with children, teachers facilitate social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and motoric learning as our preschoolers become engaged in the classroom. Play is crucial to learning, and we emphasize process instead of product. In our warm community, based on Jewish values, parents, teachers and administrators are encouraged to engage in on-going communication with openness and mutual respect. It is our goal for children to develop independence, empathy, self-awareness, self-regulation, healthy relationships, critical thinking and the basis for a lifelong love of learning.

—Expected Schoolwide Learning Results—ESLR

**Children will develop the skills to be able to function responsibly in a community, by:**

Developing a sense of belonging to and cooperating within a community.

Engaging in opportunities to demonstrate fairness, friendship, and respect for individual differences.

Making decisions intelligently and ethically through experiences with others and with materials that the child finds meaningful.

Respecting the diversity of the larger Jewish community.

**Children will develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, by:**

Using play to promote language, cognition and social confidence.

Making meaning of what they already know through contextualization.

Identifying their own and others' feelings and responding to them with sensitivity and empathy for others' perspectives.

Learning skills to regulate their own behavior, emotions and attention.

Developing gross, fine and sensory motor integration skills in order to control and use their bodies effectively.

Developing understanding of life transitions, life cycles, and the concept of God.

**Children will develop the skills necessary for success in a future academic environment, by:**

Applying higher level thinking skills, including problem solving, analysis, inquiry, forming hypotheses, and drawing conclusions in academic studies.

Developing independence, competence, responsibility and sense of mastery in academic challenges.

Expanding literacy skills in the areas of phonological awareness, concept of print, using language to develop reasoning, and communication.

Enhancing numeracy concepts and skills, such as 1:1 correspondence, counting, place value, categorization, classification, measurement, and patterning.

Maintaining the curiosity that encourages active, life-long learning.

**Children will develop a knowledge, appreciation and understanding of Jewish traditions, by:**

Identifying symbols associated with Judaism.

Learning a repertoire of Jewish rituals, songs, traditional food and stories.

Learning prayers (such as Modeh Ani, Sh'ma and Barechu ) and ritual blessings, celebrating Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Practicing Jewish values, such as *derech eretz*, *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam* ,as part of cultivating a Jewish identity.

Learning basic Hebrew vocabulary and phrases.

Recognizing the significance of the State of Israel to Jews.