



Toddler Class 2008-09

Morah Chaya, Ashi, Evan, Jacob, Levi, Luke, Mendel, Nati, Sholi, Tomas

Week of March 27

Spring is in the air. At circle time this week, we discussed that as Spring approaches, we will start noticing animals that we have not seen the whole Winter. "Where were these animals?" Some slept through Winter and are now waking up. To make it meaningful to the children, we discussed how we **NAP** to get well rested, and the animals **HIBERNATE** to get rest, too. We compared the length of our nap times to how long the animals were asleep for. "That's a very long time!" the children commented.

During spring time, lots of mommy animals give birth to baby animals. We read 'Baby Animals' and saw pictures of all different mommy animals and their babies.

When going outdoors, the first things the children do is run to the flower beds to check the flower shoots. Sure enough, they are getting taller - the children are very excited about this! We borrowed a book from the Pre-K class that told a story about buds, shoots and flowers. The children also wanted to add more to our classroom tree, we went outside and looked around for things we could add. The children gathered leaves, twigs and branches, and we will keep adding to our tree.

This week we introduced our new unit, **Passover**. Together with a large picture **Haggadah** book and puppets, we have been telling the Passover story. It is amazing to see the children's **ability to listen, and remain focused** on the information for an extended period of time. Their attention span has definitely lengthened over the course of the year. We introduced new vocabulary such as; pyramid, slaves, **choice**. We discussed what it means to make choices, just like the slaves in the Passover story who not able to, because they were under the rule of King Pharaoh. We also spoke about how rest and food re-energizes our bodies and gives us strength. King Pharaoh did not allow the slaves to take time for relaxing and eating, and only let them eat **Matzah**- a simple food. We looked at a matzah, and spoke about what it is made from, just two ingredients, flour and water. We all got to taste some matzah, and next week we will be making our own.

We explored the idea of construction, and how nowadays we have trucks and machinery to help us. However long ago, when King Pharaoh ordered the people to build pyramids, they had no machinery, and had to do everything using their bodies. We went outside and found some bricks, we explored **weight** and carrying, and had turns to try lift them with our hands, it was hard work!

In our classroom, we have our Passover table set. We have Matzah, grape juice, Elijah's cup, a Seder plate and candles. We will be talking more about the Passover table and Passover practices, next week.

ZIMMER PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

AT THE CHABAD JEWISH CENTER IN BASKING RIDGE, NJ

SKILLS

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Building a pyramid by matching the blocks to the outline of a pyramid.
- Number recognition- Matching the number of slaves to the number of matzot.

Literacy/Communication

- Letter recognition- children match the individual letters to make up a word (Passover, Moses, Matzah.)
- Children help to tell the Passover story using puppets.
- New vocabulary

Art/Creative Expression:

- Dancing and singing with a sense of happiness as the Jewish people left Egypt and at our present day holiday.

Physical awareness and skill:

- Gross motor- recognizing heavy vs light.
- Painting, using corks/

NEXT WEEK:

We will continue to work on our Hagaddah. The Hagadah is designed so that it "expands" with the children over the course of their years here at Zimmer.

We will be exploring the "stuff" we have on a traditional Passover table and its meanings and symbolism.

We will continue to work on literacy skills and go on Spring nature walks.

**Song was interspersed throughout
the Passover story telling.**

These are some of the songs we sing:

Dig, dig, dig your shovel deep
Lift, lift, lift there's no time to sleep.
Make sure to work, work every night and every day
Make sure to work, work and build pyramids today!

We are slaves in Egypt, in Egypt land.
We build pyramids, lifting bricks with our hands.
We are tired, we are hungry, we are sad in Egypt land.
We are slaves, we have no choice. We must do as King Pharaoh says.

Moses:

Listen, Oh listen, listen King Pharaoh,
Listen, please listen, please let the people go!
They work so hard all day
They need to go away
King Pharaoh, King Pharaoh,
What do you say?

King Pharaoh:

No, no, no, I will not let them go!
No, no, no, I will not let them go!
Work harder, work harder, harder, harder, harder!

TTO London Bridge...

Passover is a holiday, a holiday, a holiday
Passover is a holiday, a special day.

We eat Matzah on Passover, on Passover, on Passover
We eat Matzah on Passover, the holiday

We drink grape juice on Passover, on Passover on Passover
We drink grape juice on Passover, the holiday.

We light candles on Passover, on Passover, on Passover,
We light candles on Passover, the holiday.

We sing songs on Passover, on Passover, on Passover,
We sing songs on Passover, the holiday.

A peek into The Toddler Classroom

March 27, 2009



EMERGENT LITERACY

'I made an A!' -

Ashi is forming letters with colored pencils.

This is creative, inventive and clever!

This is what happens when we allow the child
the space to be creative!

All the "academics" come naturally and authentically.



The children like to **REUSE** and **RECYCLE**
(we recycle materials and packaging from their lunch)
Here, *Tomas* paint with corks



GROSS MOTOR:

The children are playing with the parachute.
Not only is it fun (see *Mendel's* expression!),
but they learn to play cooperatively
(to respect the space of a friend),
even with this highly physical activity.



SIGNS OF SPRING!

↑ *Evan* is finding things to put on our classroom tree
and *Nati* is pasting them on!

The classroom is the child's space, thus they
have a real part in decorating it.

↓ See how proud he looks!



A peek into The Toddler Classroom

March 27, 2009



MATHEMATICAL POWER OF REASONING

Levi is building pyramids with blocks.
Look at his thoughtful expression!



LETTER RECOGNITION:
Jacob is matching individual letters to make up a word.

A necessary part of pre-reading is for the child to become aware that letters make up words, and words make up sentences. (When we read to the children, we point to individual words, to make this point.)



REPRESENTATIONAL ART

The children used a picture from the Passover Hagadah to draw their own version. Here, *Sholi* is drawing a Jewish slave building a pyramid



SPATIAL ORIENTATION & LOGICAL THINKING

Luke is building a pyramid by matching the blocks to the outline of a pyramid

The Zimmer Kids had a great idea:
"Let's invite mom & dad
to BAKE MATZAH with us!"



Please join us on

Wednesday, April 1
9:00am - 10:00am

- Slide show presentation!
- Bake Matzah from scratch!
- Hear the children tell the story!
- Share the holiday spirit*!



* Parents, do you have something special to SHOW AND TELL us about your family's holiday celebration? A special artifact, a way you celebrate, etc. Please share with us on Wednesday after Matzah-Baking!

Please join us at our annual

Thursday, April 9 - at 8pm

COMMUNITY SEDEER

Simultaneous Children's Program
led by Morah Batsheva and Rabbi Yitzchok



At the Chabad Jewish Center
3048 Valley Road, Basking Ridge

Adults \$36, Children \$18
Family Sponsorship \$150

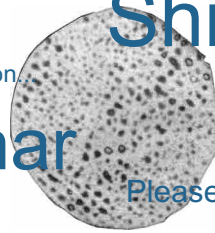
RSVP 908.604.8844
www.ChabadCentral.org/RSVP



Adults:
Want to know more about Passover?
Join us at our hands-on, minds-on, hearts-on...

Passover Seminar

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30pm



Shmurah Matzah

available for purchase

Please call Rabbi Yitzchok at 908.604.8844