



CKids Lakeland – Community Kids! Hebrew School

# Parent Handbook



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## Director's Letter

Dear Parents,

Imagine a Hebrew school where your kids don't want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a new Hebrew song.

Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism and then imagine the pride of this child's parents.

Welcome to CKids Hebrew School where the values and tradition of Judaism are vividly brought to life!

The goal of our Hebrew School is to experience and deepen Jewish knowledge which will strengthen your children's understanding of G-d, their identification with the Jewish people, their involvement in the synagogue, their participation in Jewish life and their determination to live as Jews.

We need your help to achieve this goal! With your interest and participation, your child will see Hebrew school as a privilege and opportunity to learn about their Jewish identity. Thank you for taking on this commitment and welcome to the team!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

Libby Lazaros

## Curriculum

Throughout this curriculum, students will be introduced to key figures in the Torah, beginning from Adam and Eve and through the journey of our forefathers and foremothers. Students will know their Jewish story and strongly feel their part in it. With a pride in their ancestors, they will be confident and equipped to live their lives proud Jews.

Each class is broken into two parts:

Part 1: An interactive way to tell the story.

Part 2: A hands-on activity where the kids continue learning the story or internalize the message.

Through engaging and fresh activities, your child will sense that Jewish history isn't just something of the past. Students will perceive that this is their story and feel confident and responsible to live an active life portraying the values taught by our ancestors.

The curriculum is designed to generate a positive change in children by encouraging them to integrate Torah and Mitzvot into their lives. Through focused lesson goals and repeated application, the children will gain real skills and will be able to effect a genuine change in their lives. The curriculum offers timeless lessons and ways to integrate the knowledge children need to practically implement the skill. Children will have the passion and knowledge to live Jewishly, by internalizing the lessons and skills they learn. Upon completion of this course the student will have created a method to integrate Torah, Mitzvot and Jewish Holidays into their lives and developed methods to create change in the world around them.

Areas of academic emphasis include:

1. Jewish History
2. Hebrew reading and vocabulary
3. Holidays and traditions
4. Culture and current events

This course engages children in discovering the higher purpose of everyday lifestyle, and gives them the tools to practically implement their inspiration.

## Communication

Should you need to contact our staff during school hours, please contact:

**Libby Lazaros or Shelley Robinson**

**863-937-5565 • 863-838-9970**

## The Atmosphere

The underlying strength of our school is in its general warmth and spirit, providing a learning experience in an atmosphere of joy and liveliness.

CKids Clubs, hands-on education, and games as well as drama, and songs are blended into our curriculum.

## Our Approach

At CKids Hebrew School we strive to stress the beauty and warmth of Judaism and its Mitzvot, providing a learning experience in an atmosphere of joy and liveliness. We place particular emphasis on the inclusion of Jewish ethics and values. Mutual tolerance and respect for fellow human beings are taught as basic principles of faith.

Besides for the weekly Bereishit lessons, we have **CKids Clubs**.

CKids Clubs are insider events that get children innovating with fun, new mediums and skill sets. Open to the larger Jewish community, we invite more Jewish children to join CKids Clubs.

## Aleph Champ/Hebrew Language Reading & Comprehension

Aleph Champ is a ground-breaking program that is the talk of the town. This system offers a new and innovative Hebrew reading technique that involves ten easily attainable levels for children to master. Students are motivated and have clear goals defined for them. In addition to reading they will be able to write and understand basic Hebrew vocabulary.

## Health and Wellness

Communication is key to allowing us to help your child. Please let us know if there are any important factors in your child's health, such as allergies, vision, hearing, medications, etc. This will help us to be understanding and cater to his/her needs. Of course, the greatest care will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the student/family.

Contagious Illness: Please notify us in the event of a contagious illness so that we may notify the parents of other children in the class to be aware of the symptoms.

In case of minor injury, the first aider will treat the injury. For major injuries, G-d forbid, EMS will be called as well as the parents. In the event the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the emergency contact on file will be contacted. If necessary, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital.

## Drop Off/ Pick Up

- Sunday: 10:00-12:00 pm
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## Leaving Class Early

Please note our new policy: If for some significant reason your child has to leave early, you are required to go to the office and sign them out. The secretary will then call your child who will come up. This is a safety precaution to protect your children. No child will be allowed to linger in the hallways or wait outside.

## Hebrew School Schedule

Preschoolers meet Sunday mornings from 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Kindergarten, first and Second graders meet Sunday mornings from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Third-sixth graders meet Sunday mornings from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and one weekday for 1.30 h.

Seventh graders meet two Sundays each month, time TBA

Sample Schedule	Activity
10:00am-10:15am	Tefillah-Prayer with music and song
10:15am-10:55am	Hebrew Reading-Aleph Champ
10:55am-11:05am	Outdoor break with snack
11:05am-11:55am	Bereishit Curriculum - Story of My Life
11:55am-12:00pm	Clean up and dismissal

## Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to your child's success in Hebrew school. There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Furthermore, coming late disturbs the entire class and disrupts your child's classroom routine. Any work that is missed due to attendance has to be made up.

Adhering to the attendance policy will be greatly appreciated and will help your child get the most out of Hebrew school. Great attendance will be rewarded.

## Payment and Refund Policy

Tuition fees can be paid by check or credit card. Payments should be given to Libby Lazaros only and not to other staff members. Tuition fees are non-refundable. Should you decide to withdraw your child from Hebrew School, your refund will be pro-rated up to February 1. After that date no refund will be allowed for Hebrew School tuition. There are no refunds or credits for days missed due to illness, holidays, or family vacations.

## Textbooks

Textbooks and workbooks will be supplied by the school. Books should be treated with care and respect. There will be a charge for lost books.

## Communication

Your child's happiness is our top priority. Communication between parents and staff is very important and will make the Hebrew school experience more pleasant for your child.

If there are any issues that are bothering you concerning your child's education, do not disregard them. Please talk to us so that we can make your child more comfortable and alleviate any distress immediately.

We will be emailing important notices and newsletters to let you know what is happening during Hebrew school. Please check your email Hebrew school notices to monitor how your child is progressing.

## Behavior Management Plan

Teachers will make all classroom rules clear to students.

Teachers will give one reminder of the rule. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to observe from the back of the classroom.

If a child continues to be disruptive, they will ask the student to leave the classroom for three minutes to collect themselves. Parents will be contacted to review the episode. If disruptive behavior continues, a conference will be set up between child, parent and the director where a behavior management contract will be drafted.

Zero Tolerance Policy: Any student involved in harmful and/or dangerous behavior to himself or others, or destruction of property, will result in immediate suspension pending a conference between the director and the parents.

## Kippah

All boys can bring their own kippah to wear in class. If he forgets his own kippah, he will be given one.

## Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept which is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with the less fortunate by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide the students with a daily coin for tzedakah.

## Snacks

A light snack will be served during Hebrew school. Water is always available for students to drink.

## Parent/CKids Communication

We believe in a strong parent/teacher partnership. Communication between parents and CKids is very important to ensure that Hebrew School is a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child.

Photos of CKids Hebrew School in action will be posted weekly on our website-make sure to view them at **ckidslakeland.org**

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, call **Libby Lazaros** at **863-937-5565**

## Helping Your Child Succeed

In order for our CKids program to be most effective, the home and CKids must work hand in hand and promote a close partnership. The following are a few suggestions:

- Many of our students are involved in other extracurricular activities, i.e. sports, music lessons, etc. All these are important; however, please place priority on your child's Jewish education.
- Participation in Synagogue services and celebration of Jewish Holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity. We invite all Hebrew School families to join us for Shabbat and holiday services and programs. You belong-no membership needed!
- Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education. Make a habit of asking your child/ren how their day was, and what they have learned. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong Jewish identity and positive attitude.
- Always remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!