



AHAVAH אהבה



early  
childhood  
center

## Ahavah Developmental Milestones

Ahavah means love! Our infant program serves children 6 weeks to 16 months old. Our goal for our infant program is to provide a nurturing, safe, and stimulating environment that meets the unique needs of each baby in a group setting. This program follows the individual schedules of each infant, based on their specific needs. This includes their eating, sleeping, and diapering schedule. Throughout the day, while the babies are awake, they will have the opportunity to discover with developmentally appropriate toys in the classroom, participate with an art and music specialist, and explore the JCC facilities while on “walks” around the building. Infants are also given tummy time throughout the day to stretch and strengthen their muscles. Older infants in the Ahavah program will regularly go to the tumble room to give babies the opportunity to develop their core strength and fine tune skills such as walking. Sign language will be used to help provide the infants with different means of communication. Daily notes are utilized in our infant program for each individual child; this gives teachers the opportunity to communicate with parents regarding each child’s sleeping, eating, and diapering schedule. As infants get older, they will have their first experiences sitting at a table with a group for meal times while using plates and spoons. Infants in this classroom will transition from one morning and one afternoon nap, to one longer nap after lunch.

### **The Ahavah schedule and individualized curriculum is designed for children to develop the following skills during the year:**

- Trust and emotional security through building relationships and showing preferences with familiar adults; responding to unfamiliar adults cautiously; finding comfort in new situations; and showing emotional connections and attachments to others.
- Self-awareness by expressing feelings and emotions through facial expressions, sounds, or gestures.
- Interest and awareness of other children.
- Listening and understanding by showing an interest in listening to sounds, responding to verbal and nonverbal communication of others, and beginning to understand gestures, words, questions or routines.
- Communication and speaking skills by using consistent sounds, gestures or actions to express needs and wants; using sign language to communicate words for a variety of purposes.
- Emergent literacy by taking interest in songs, rhymes, and stories.
- Exploration and discovery skills by paying attention to the people and objects in their surroundings and using their senses to explore their environment.
- Memory skills and the ability to recognize familiar people, places, and things.
- Problem solving through experiments with different uses of objects.
- Beginning to connect imitation and symbolic play by observing and imitating sounds, gestures, and behaviors of others.
- Ability to move body, arms and legs with coordination and, as infants get older, increasing the ability to change positions and move from place to place.
- Ability to use their hands or feet to make contact with objects or people to enhance fine motor development while also using small muscle control and coordination.