

## 7. How is Judaism incorporated into the curriculum?

We provide positive experiences in Jewish living through the celebration of Shabbat every Friday in our Synagogue and the study of Jewish holidays through story telling, music, dance, cooking, role playing, and arts & crafts. Our goal is to guide our students to feel, understand, live and love Judaism. The early love of customs and traditions builds the child's values and molds a well-rounded individual.



## 8. What is the policy of parent involvement?

We see ourselves as an extension of the family. With our "open door policy" parents and teachers work together towards common goals to create an environment which enables children to grow to their full potential. We offer many programs that include and encourage parent participation. We also welcome parents to become active in our Sinai Parent Association (SPA) which provides programs and fund-raising events, and is a strong support system for our school.



## 9. Where do children go to school after the Early Childhood Center?

The Jacobson Sinai Academy experience continues on from Early Childhood to our Kindergarten through 8th grade program. This program, accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools, is a highly enriched, academically challenging program. In addition, we were recognized nationally as a "School of Excellence" and subsequently received a challenge grant from the Partnership in Excellence for Jewish Education.

**Jeannette and Harold Jacobson**  
Sinai Academy  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION CENTER  
of  
Temple Sinai

18801 N.E. 22nd Avenue  
North Miami Beach, FL 33180

Phone: 305.932.9012  
Fax: 305.933.2443  
[www.jacobsonsinaiacademy.org](http://www.jacobsonsinaiacademy.org)



**A Reform Congregation Nurturing Souls for a Fuller Jewish Life**

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## *Answers to Parents' Most Commonly Asked Questions*



*Nurture... Prepare... Challenge*

Accredited by the Florida Kindergarten Council

### ***1. What is the philosophy of the school?***

The Jacobson Sinai Academy Early Childhood Education Center provides a stimulating curriculum, using developmentally appropriate materials, within a safe, secure environment. Our goal is to provide a supportive, caring setting which encourages children to develop socially, physically, emotionally and intellectually at their own pace. When children are successful, they feel good about their accomplishments and themselves.

### ***2. When can my child start school?***

Our program begins with our parent/child “Developmental Enrichment Program.” Children may begin when they are 6 months old and continue through 30 months. Parents have the option of taking the class once or twice a week. A separation class is also offered for children 25 through 30 months. In this class, parents gradually leave their children alone with their teacher in order to prepare them for separation at the two year old level (First Timers).

Children may begin the Early Childhood Toddler Graduate Program at 18 months and continue until they are five years old. The Toddler Graduate Program is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-12 noon. Parents of all other age levels have the option of sending their children 2 half days, 3 half days, 5 half days or 5 full days based on each child’s individual needs and abilities. (Children need not be potty trained until 3 years of age.)

### ***3. What are the school hours?***

Full days at the Jacobson Sinai Academy Early Childhood Center are 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday-Thursday and until 2:30pm on Fridays. Half days are 9:00am to 12:00pm.

To help accommodate the needs of our families, we offer early care and after school programs. Early care begins at 8:00am and our late stay program ends at 3:30pm. Our after school program is until 5:30pm, Monday-Thursday and until 4:00pm on Fridays.

In addition to supervised extended day, we offer after school enrichment programs including activities such as: computers, drama, Spanish, karate and a variety of sports.

### ***4. Is your school accredited?***

Yes, we are proud to boast that we were the first private Jewish Early Childhood Education Center in the North Dade area to be accredited by the Florida Kindergarten Council. The FKC is the lower division of the Florida Council of Independent Schools, the accrediting agency for our elementary and upper schools.

To obtain accreditation from the FKC we had to meet the agency’s high standards in various areas including curriculum, staff qualifications, safety issues, financial records and cleanliness. This means that parents who have selected our school can take comfort that we provide the highest professional standards of excellence.

### ***5. What about the faculty?***

Our faculty consists of dedicated teachers who are highly trained in the education of young children within a Jewish setting, have met licensing requirements, and receive ongoing in-service training. Many of our teachers are parents themselves and bring a wealth of life experiences to their positions. Teachers help the children develop self esteem and provide a safe, nurturing environment for each child.

In addition, our student/teacher ratio is something we are proud of, averaging 6:1, depending on the age level.

### ***6. What type of curriculum is used in the Early Childhood Program?***

We provide a program that focuses on the whole child. Each child is respected as an individual with specific needs to be nurtured. All classrooms are set up with activity areas that challenge the interests and cognitive abilities of each age group. We provide a multi-faceted program, through a hands-on, creative approach, geared to meet the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive development of each individual child.