

January/February 2012

www.FelsKids.org

Tishrei 5772 / Cheshvan/Kislev 5772

Welcome 2012!

The New Year is here and we are so excited to continue our learning and fun! We had some very exciting happenings these last two months, beginning with a wonderful giving project lead by a 7th grade alumnus of Kehillah, Marc Epstein. With your help we donated over 300 new clothing items to 39 needy children at JFCS in Philadelphia! Also, Carter's donated an additional \$250 of clothing to JFCS at Marc's request. What a wonderful way to begin the season of giving, thank you to all who participated!

In December, we held our 2nd annual Philabundance food drive with Natalie and Heather Donofrio heading up the cause. We collected about 200 lbs of food for this worthy cause, once again kudos to you all! We had our Hanukkah Play on the 15th and it was a great success! The children performed spectacularly and the singing and dancing made for a joyous event. We had a record turnout of families and shared a wonderful dinner and evening!

On December 30th, we counted down to 12 noon with a pajama party in the BIG room, many parents attended with their children and enjoyed pizza and snacks for lunch. We were just about ready to wrap up the holidays and have a nice long weekend, when we got the amazing news that all of our hard work paid off and we reached our goal of a STAR 3 with Keystone STARS!! What a great gift before the New Year, our scores were STAR 4 level across the board with one exception, which is fantastic! Our teachers are phenomenal and worked so hard this past year and a half and it all showed in these scores!! 2012 has a lot to live up to and we are ready for the challenge!

Happy New Year!

Jessica Caravello, Center Director



January 1, 2012
Happy New Year

February 1, 2012
100th day of School Celebration

January 2, 2012
New Year Observance
School Closed

February 8, 2012
Tu B'Shevat Celebration

January 16, 2012
Martin Luther King Day
School closed

February 20, 2012
President's Day
School Closed



Winter Weather Warnings

Kehillah's Snow Closing Number Is: 3209

WHAT DETERMINES WHEN FEDERATION EARLY LEARNING SERVICES CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

THE AGENCY REMAINS OPEN WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PARENTS NEED TO GO TO WORK AND DEPEND ON US FOR CHILD CARE. WE THEREFORE, MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO OPEN, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the meteorologists and sometimes storms do not follow the path predicted. It is disconcerting to all of us when this occurs. It is also challenging to make these determinations at 5:00 am as information about road conditions is not readily available

The following guidelines for closing or opening late were developed, taking into consideration the safety of children, families and staff. In most cases when the public schools are closed **and** the forecast anticipates hazardous road conditions, a heavy snowfall and major power outages, the agency will be closed. This information is publicized as follows:

- * Posted on the homepage of **FelsKids.org**
- * Posted on CBS (KYW), ABC and NBC websites and TV stations
- * Announced on KYW radio
- * Announced on each center's telephone answering machine (sometimes we encounter technical difficulties - not as reliable)
- * Sent to your cell phone *if you registered for this service with the TV stations*

When hazardous road conditions exist, but the forecast indicates that an increase in temperature will eliminate the hazard, we may delay opening up to 2 1/2 hours (9:00 am) for all locations except Buerger and Kol Ami, which would open by 9 am.

Another critical factor in determining whether we can open is the ability to staff the program adequately, since many of our teachers do not live in the vicinity of the center. Many depend on public transportation and, as you know, SEPTA has been cancelling bus routes with greater frequency.

In rare situations, we may need to alter a decision to open late and close for the day. This occurs when temperatures suddenly increase or decrease or when heat, electricity or water is not operable in the building. We urge you to continue checking the notification systems cited above that we have in place.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

When will Sophie Speak?

by Shannon Rosenman, OTR/L

Dear FELS' Parents,

Parents and teachers frequently ask me if a child is speaking well for his or her age. According to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), most toddlers who aren't talking 'well' aren't really delayed. They may not be talking as much as you expect, but that can still be normal.

Consider that most toddlers' speech develop as indicated:

- 7 - 15 months begin to say "Mama" and "Dada"
- 11- 22 months say 4-6 words
- 18 - 27 months say 50+ words
- 36 months - use over a hundred words/phrases so someone, who does not know them, can usually understand them.

Young children understand many more words than they can say. Hearing affects a child's speech development. Pay attention to ear problems and infections, especially when they keep occurring. An audiologist is the medical professional who can best evaluate your child's hearing.

The ability to use words and phrases to express wants and needs affects development, especially social and emotional development. Children get frustrated more frequently when they can't put their wishes and needs into words. For example, Aiden cannot ask for a turn with the fire truck, so he grabs it. Celia who is unable to say "My turn!" tries to bite Aiden's hand. Lilly wants milk, but cannot say the word clearly. Her babysitter misunderstands and gives her juice. Lilly throws the cup, crying angrily. Tantrums, biting and other troublesome behaviors often start to diminish when your child gets better at making his or her words understood.

To help your young toddler develop his or her skills ASHA suggests the following strategies:

Reinforce your baby's communication attempts by looking at him or her, speaking, and imitating his or her vocalizations.

Teach animal sounds (e.g., "A cow says moo").

Teach your baby to imitate actions, such as peekaboo, clap hands. These games teach skills needed for conversation.

Talk while you are doing things, "Mama is sweeping the floor!"
Talk about where you are going, "Judy is going to Grandma's house."
Practice counting. Count toes and fingers.

When a second language is introduced, some children may not talk much for several months. This is normal and will go away.

Many factors affect a child's ability to speak. If you are concerned about your child's speech development, talk to his/her teacher and pediatrician. If you are still troubled, call Early Intervention services in your county. They will come to your home or your child's school, evaluate his or her skills and reassure you. If needed, they can help. All services provided through Early Intervention are totally free of charge!

For more information: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

Shannon Rosenman brings 35 years of experience as a licensed Occupational Therapist to her role as the Director of Child Development for Federation Early Learning Centers. We are fortunate to have her expertise to help teachers and center directors adapt their classroom activities so each child's individual needs can be addressed.

Spread the Word!

Parents, please spread your Federation Early Learning Services pride!!!

We need your help and support. We know your time is valuable and your schedules are full, but there is a fast way that you can spread the word about our center!

Parents who are shopping for a high quality child care center trust the opinions of parents just like them. Please take a moment and go to any of the websites below to share your experiences. Help us reach out to new parents, so we can keep expanding our FELS family.

Thank you so much for your help!

www.yelp.com
www.saavysource.com
www.citysearch.com
www.greatschools.org
www.schooldigger.com





Room 6 Older Toddlers: Room 6 has a lot of interesting activities planned for the Winter months ahead. We will be learning to hibernate like bears with a tent in our classroom. Each child will take a turn at naptime to sleep in the tent pretending to be a bear. We will paint snow using colored water in spray bottles and watch how the snow melts and the colors change and mix together. We will also learn about arctic animals that live in the cold weather all of the time like penguins, polar bears and snow foxes. Parents are welcome to come a visit us and join in our freezing fun!

~Miss Natasha and Miss Barbara



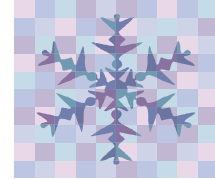
A Great Big Congratulations goes out to Room 6 and Room 3 as they were the 2 classrooms chosen to be observed for our Keystone STARS ERS visit!! Each room scored very well and had overall averages of 5.68 and 5.70 respectively. The scores in each subscale are as follows (5 is above average and 7 being the highest):

Room 6: Space and Furnishings ~ 5.00
Personal Care Routines ~ 3.67
Listening/ Talking ~ 6.67
Activities ~ 5.67
Interaction ~ 7.00
Program Structure ~ 6.00
Parents and Staff ~ 6.57

Room 3: Space and Furnishings ~ 4.88
Personal Care Routines ~ 3.33
Language/Reasoning ~ 7.00
Activities ~ 6.30
Interaction ~ 6.60
Program Structure ~ 5.75
Parents and Staff ~ 6.50

Room 10 Kindergarten:

Room 10 is excited about 2012!! We welcome our new friends, Abby, Alex Ella and Miss Elyse! We look forward to a Winter and Spring full of fun activities and projects. Continuing letter of the week, we begin the year with Jj for January, followed by Ww for winter. We will be making junk sculptures, writing in brand new journals, making snowflakes and other winter decorations, and we will be planning a Winter Ball and Talent Show!



Our Tzedakah jar is growing and as soon as it is full we will be using the money to buy clothes and toys for those children who are less fortunate. This class is sensitive to others and eager to count the money!

All of our special classes are a real treat. We can't even choose which is our favorite: Hebrew with Morah Onit, Israeli Dancing with Miss Mindy, Teeny Yogini with Miss Stephanie or Story Time with Miss Lori.

Kindergarten is an exciting year. I am so lucky to be able to help the children grow, learn to problem solve, become independent, and learn to read! We have already started choosing songs for graduation in June! This group loves to sing and dance, so we may be adding some surprises this year!

~Miss Cathy

