

It is with great enthusiasm and pleasure that we introduce the newly hired Director of the Micah Children's Academy: **Lynn Heady**. Lynn has been a member of Congregation Micah since moving from Pittsburgh in 2000. She most recently served as President of our Board of Trustees from 2008-2009. Lynn has an extensive background in education, most recently serving as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Williamson County School District. We sat with Lynn recently to discuss her new role as Director of the pre-school at Micah:

Tell us about your background and why you sought the Director position for the new Micah Children's Academy?

I've had a wonderful and varied career in the education which has enabled me to see teaching and learning through the eyes of both children and adults. Because of these experiences, my beliefs around the nature of learning have been validated over and over again---the most important learning begins early in a child's development and sets the foundation. Micah Children's Academy affords me the opportunity to put together a team whose task will be building a solid base for successful learning with strong ties to Reform Judaism.

What are your plans and hopes for the Academy next year and in the future?

In this next year, we'll build a safe and loving "home away from home" for children where learning is natural and exciting. We will work hard to implement best practice in the field of preschool education that will become our framework for learning and growing. It will be a year of collaboration between families and staff defining how we best meet the needs of each child.

I can *hear* the future quite easily through the words of our Academy students' future elementary school teachers: "The Micah Childrens Academy has sent us confident children who love learning and are well-prepared for success."

What are you most excited about when you think about being a director of a pre-school?

First and foremost, I am excited about serving my Micah community, again. While I was able to lend my personal skills to the office of President, I am now being given the opportunity to share my professional skills. I bring the experience of an educator who recognizes the essential elements of designing effective learning and I look forward to putting all of the pieces together---listening to the needs of our students through the eyes of their families, respecting and growing the talents of the teaching and support staff, and creating a curriculum that offers our students a strong foundation for success.

What kind of faculty-team do you hope to build?

My first job will be to find a team who love and respect children and who view their work at MCA as creating a nurturing and positive environment where learning can flourish. I have never been an “*I*” person; I believe in the importance of team and will look for individuals who value teamwork and are willing and able to commit to a shared vision. I want families to characterize us as a team who work hard and “smart” to grow their children intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

Please join us in welcoming Lynn Heady as the new director of the Micah Children’s Academy! Lynn will begin in her new position mid-April. We look forward to partnering with Lynn as our Micah community continues to grow.