

CONGREGATION MICAH
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONGREGATION MICAH TO OPEN NEW PRE-SCHOOL.

MICAH CHILDREN'S ACADEMY

NASHVILLE/BRENTWOOD -- Area families will have a new pre-school option with the opening of Micah Children's Academy, owned and operated by Congregation Micah, a Reform Jewish synagogue. An exemplar of early childhood education "best practices," the Academy is for youngsters age six weeks to five years. Capacity is 83 children.

Children of all faith traditions and cultures are welcome. Parents are encouraged to apply now for the Academy's August 16th start.

Applications are available at www.micahchildrensacademy.org.

Parents can learn more about Micah Children's Academy at an Open House 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 11 at Congregation Micah, 2001 Old Hickory Boulevard.

Convenient Location

Straddling Williamson and Davidson County lines, Micah Children's Academy is located in Brentwood and Nashville. At the crossroads of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Road, the pre-school is minutes from I-65 and I-40, providing easy access for families from Franklin, Brentwood, Oak Hill, Green Hills, Bellevue and surrounding communities.

Flexible Options

To accommodate the needs of at-home moms or dads and dual-income families, Micah

Children's Academy offers flexible schedules. For children between six weeks and four years, there are two-, three- or five-day/week options, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For five-year-olds, the pre-K options are four or five days/week, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Several before- and after-care options are also available.

The Academy has a year-round calendar, observing both Jewish and secular holidays.

Micah Children's Academy Features

Micah Children's Academy features all-new, bright classrooms with the latest in educational furnishings and equipment.

Set amid Congregation Micah's vast grassy and wooded acreage, the Academy boasts an eco-friendly outdoor playscape, with natural sand and water play and art features, hills, pathways, trees and open space. Part of the playscape is covered, giving youngsters outdoor fun time rain or shine. Children explore nature through trips to the on-site Little Harpeth River, as well as enrichment activities in Micah's memorial and planting gardens.

A large multi-purpose room is home to engaging group events, including Sabbath and holiday celebrations with Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Philip (Flip) Rice and music-making with Lisa Silver, Micah's Music Director.

"Indoors or outside, Micah Children's Academy's safe, developmentally-appropriate play and learning environments reinforce children's natural curiosity and imagination, while allowing them to experience challenges and successes," said Julie Greenberg, Congregation Micah Education Director.

Curriculum

The Academy's curriculum integrates the best of early childhood education theories, practices and current research. Active learning promotes cognitive, social, emotional, physical

and creative development. Multi-sensory activities and materials accommodate auditory, visual and kinesthetic learners.

Age-appropriate activities advance language development -- English, Spanish and Hebrew – science and mathematics. Enrichment activities include Yoga, music, dance, art and drama. Joyous observation of Jewish ritual and tradition is integral to the curriculum.

Highly trained educators, in a low student-to-teacher ratio, work in teams to provide quality experiences for the children. Teachers are committed to participating in ongoing professional development.

“Studies show that the earliest years of learning provide a precious window of time for children to expand their minds, develop their social abilities and grow their souls. These years are also a vital time for promoting self-esteem and confidence. All that we do at the Academy prepares children for a healthy, successful future and for entrance into any Kindergarten program,” said Lynn Heady, Micah Children’s Academy Director.

Partnering with Parents

A partnership between parents and teachers is central to the Academy’s dedication to the healthy growth of its students. Informal daily interactions between parents and teachers, as well as scheduled conferences and weekly newsletters, permit the sharing of valuable information. Micah Children’s Academy also offers learning opportunities for moms and dads to enhance their parenting experience.

Congregation Micah’s monthly “Micah Minis” and “Mommy and Me” programs, for youngsters and their parents to enjoy Jewish music, prayer and community, supplement the Academy’s family programming.

Anchored in Reform Jewish Tradition

At Micah Children’s Academy, Reform Jewish tradition orients young minds of any faith

or culture to the universal ethic of tolerance and appreciation for all members of the global human family.

The school offers a loving and playful environment for children and parents to learn about and practice the celebrations and traditions of the Jewish people, and their values: *chaverut* (friendship); *tzedakah* (righteousness); *tikkun olam* (caring for the world and environment, locally and globally); *Torah* (study and worship); *ruach* (spirituality); *klal Yisrael* (community and inclusiveness).

About Congregation Micah

Serving nearly 500 families under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Philip (Flip) Rice, Congregation Micah, renowned for its musical orientation and inclusiveness, is a vibrant Reform Jewish synagogue offering creative and diverse ways to celebrate Jewish life.

Micah Children's Academy is part of the synagogue's \$1.8 million expansion, which also includes a renovated Religious School wing and additional indoor and outdoor space for educational and social functions.

At its founding 16 years ago, the synagogue adopted the words of Micah, the Biblical prophet and civil rights advocate, as its message of equality and welcome for all: "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God" (6:8).

For More Information

For more information about Micah Children's Academy, call Lynn Heady or Julie Greenberg (615) 377-9799 or visit www.micahchildrensacademy.org.

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