



Chai Fives Purpose Statement Maureen Newlun, Chai Fives Teacher

The Chai Fives program offers a unique and special environment for the youngest of our students. It is where opportunities for enrichment and learning through play and exploration are the essence of the classroom. The social and emotional goals of the Chai Fives student are increasing stamina, employing self-discipline, following directions, caring for and respecting oneself, others, and the classroom environment, and developing a sense of independence. Judaic Studies in Chai Fives is integrated throughout the curriculum. Learning about family, home, holidays, prayer, customs, *Dereh Eretz* and Torah are central components to the Chai Fives program.

Community is the thread through the Chai Five Classroom. We begin by learning about the members of our classroom, expand to our families, and out to the larger SJCS community. We will be exploring *Community* at home, at school, in the neighborhood, through Social Studies, Judaics, Math, Reading, Science, Art, Music, and more.

Language Arts employs a broad curriculum of reading, writing, speaking, listening, letter recognition, phonemic awareness, rhyming, and books and authors. We use the program Linguistic Remedies for a foundation in reading and Handwriting Without Tears for letter recognition and formation in writing. Chai Fives students learn to write their full names using upper and lower case letters. Dictation of stories, labeling pictures, invented spelling, journals, and making connections between the spoken and written word provide the foundation for later development in literacy. Building vocabulary, speaking aloud, listening for comprehension and direction, and learning Hebrew vocabulary and simple phrases complete the language arts curriculum.

Math is a series of opportunities for building math concepts and developing number sense. This occurs through the exploration of real objects, games, puzzles, comparing sizes, shapes, sequencing, patterning, calendar, estimating, making predictions, weight and measurement, one to one correspondence, counting, graphing, and sets.

In science we'll explore weights and measures, health, nutrition, weather, the earth and environment, and more. Engaging in multiple opportunities for observing, recording, and classifying help builds early science concepts, skills, and understanding.