

**ANN AND NATE LEVINE ACADEMY
2012-2013**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)
APPLICATION MATERIALS**



ABOUT LEVINE ACADEMY

THE SCHOOL

Ann and Nate Levine Academy is an inclusive Conservative Jewish day school with a pluralistic philosophy serving students from early childhood through 8th grade. The school was founded in 1979 by Congregation Shearith Israel, is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

MEMBERSHIPS/LICENSES

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Association for the Supervision of Curriculum Development
The Education Records Bureau
Solomon Schechter Day School Association
Texas Association of Non-public Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Science Teacher Association
Continental Math League
National Geographic Society
National Council of Social Studies
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



MISSION STATEMENT

Ann and Nate Levine Academy is an inclusive Conservative Jewish Day School which inspires a passion for learning and graduates confident, ethical, Jewish citizens and leaders.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Ann and Nate Levine Academy offers an innovative curriculum combining the best of both general and Jewish studies, based on years of extensive research and on recognized models of excellence. Levine Academy is committed to creating a welcoming atmosphere of diversity. Teachers and students reflect different traditions of Jewish observance and share a variety of skills and interests. Teaching is tailored to each child's needs and strengths, not to a class average. This allows children to move ahead in areas of strength and to receive additional attention in areas of need. Our approach of individualized attention fosters self-confidence and ensures our students' success academically, emotionally and spiritually.

FINANCIAL AID

Families who have students entering Pre-K through Grade 8 are eligible to apply. A student entering Pre-K is limited to \$1,000 in financial assistance.

ABOUT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

At Ann and Nate Levine Academy ECC, development of the whole child is essential. We encourage our students to explore and achieve expertise in a wide variety of enrichment activities both during the school day and after school.

MUSIC

The ECC Music curriculum includes a variety of experiences to explore sound through singing, moving, listening and playing instruments. The curriculum is aligned to meet the developmental needs of children from infancy to Pre-K. We begin by introducing basic sounds and rhythms, repetition of sounds, verbalization and visualization of musical ideas. The musical literature is rooted in Jewish songs, prayer and traditional teaching of Jewish Holiday stories. The curriculum also includes traditional children's songs, chants, folk songs, classical songs and songs derived from various cultures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Movement is an integral part of the young child's life and education, for it is through movement that children develop social, emotional, and cognitive skills. For young children, movement is a critical means of communication, expression, and learning. The ECC Physical Education curriculum is designed to develop those skills and to provide the students with developmentally appropriate motor skill instruction in an effort to build a foundation for successful participation in later childhood and adult physical activities. The student's experience is built around age-appropriate interests and provides a wonderful mix of sports, gymnastics and fitness. Classes focus on gross motor development, cardiovascular and strength conditioning, socialization skills, eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, balance, strength, rhythm, and directionality.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Camp Shemesh, Levine Academy's summer camp, is an eight-week program designed for children ages 12 months through entering Kindergarten. Activities emphasize individual growth by providing children with the opportunity to develop positive feelings about themselves and how to be a contributing member of a group. Campers develop skills through arts and crafts, water play, sports, science, and other indoor and outdoor activities. All age groups meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and have the opportunity of staying for Camp Beyond until 4 p.m.

EXTENDED DAY

Extended Day offers both morning and after school programs. Morning Care begins at 7:45 a.m., and the students are delivered to their classrooms prior to the start of their school day. The program resumes after morning dismissal until 6 p.m. Toddlers and Two Year olds take a Nap from 1-3p.m. Three year olds and Pre-K students have their choice of an Educare class from 1-2p.m. or 2-4p.m. every day. Two year olds have the opportunity to transition from Nap to Educare in January. Educare classes are followed by a 45 minute rest period. Extended rest time is available. Aftercare students participate in daily specialty classes such as Spanish, Drama, Tumbling, and Art.

EDUCARE PROGRAM

Between 12:45 - 2 p.m., Two year olds (Tue./Thu. starting January), Three-year-olds and Pre-K students will participate in a 30-45 minute activity. Activities include Ballet, Martial Arts, Cooking, Gymnastics, Science, Art, and Music. Fees may be required in order to participate in these extracurricular activities.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

Awareness of each child's developmental readiness is the underlying principle of our early childhood curriculum. We understand that children pass through predictable stages in their cognitive, physical, linguistic, and social/emotional growth. Our teachers nurture and challenge each child through the individual steps of his or her developmental path.

BABY & ME / TODDLER & ME

Levine Academy offers Baby & Me and Toddler & Me classes (Baby & Me on Tuesday, Toddler & Me on Thursday). These programs are valuable experiences for parents and children starting at 3 months of age. The classes meet once a week and are led by a facilitator. The curriculum includes baby sign language, cooking, art, movement, yoga, PowerBabies, music and library. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss parenting issues both amongst themselves and with guest speakers.

PARENT & ME

Parent and Me is an exciting introduction to the Levine Academy Early Childhood Center. During the first semester, children 18 - 24 months and their parent/caregiver have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with our ECC Program. During the second semester, January through May, the children attend this class on their own. Parent and Me meets twice a week enabling children to experience all aspects of our ECC Program: Torah service, art, music, library, movement, snack, lunch and playground time.

YOUNG TODDLERS THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN

12 months through 5 years

The educational philosophy of the Levine Academy Early Childhood Center is based on meeting the developmental needs of children. The programs are designed to meet each child's emotional, social, cognitive and physical needs. Classrooms are set up in learning and interest centers, and include an extended "free selection time" each day that encourages children to initiate play on their own. Children are encouraged to think, create and problem-solve in a rich stimulating and inviting environment. Children have the opportunity to express themselves in varied media, paint, clay, cooking, drama and writing, where every activity is designed to nurture each child's individual creativity.

JUDAIC PROGRAM

Levine Academy's early childhood environment is designed to provide children with a strong and positive Jewish identity. Children experience Judaism as a joyful way of life. The symbols and traditions of Jewish life are made accessible, understandable, and tangible.

- Three-Year-Olds and Pre-Kindergarten participate in a formal Hebrew language immersion program. Children gain a Jewish vocabulary and Jewish orientation to the seasons of the year.
- Students learn to recognize Jewish symbols, holidays, Torah stories, and prayers.
- There are two formal Jewish studies sessions per class weekly, as well as the Havdalah service each Monday, the Torah service each Thursday, and the Kabbalat Shabbat celebration each Friday.
- All Jewish holidays and special commemorative days are taught through educational units and programming.

PROGRAMS AND CLASS HOURS

BABY AND ME PROGRAM

Starting at 3 months

Fall Semester (Sept-Dec) with parent	Tues	11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Spring Semester (Jan-May) with parent	Tues	11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

TODDLER AND ME PROGRAM

12 - 24 months

Fall Semester (Sept-Dec) with parent	Thurs	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Spring Semester (Jan-May) with parent	Thurs	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

PARENT AND ME

18 - 24 months

Fall Semester (Aug-Dec) with parent	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Spring Semester (Jan-May) without parent	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

YOUNG TODDLERS

12 - 18 months

Two days per week	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Three days per week	Mon/Wed/Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Five days per week	Mon-Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

TODDLERS

18 - 24 months

Two days per week	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Three days per week	Mon/Wed/Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Five days per week	Mon-Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

TWO-YEAR OLDS

Two days per week	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Three days per week	Mon/Wed/Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Five days per week	Mon-Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

THREE-YEAR OLDS

Five days per week	Mon-Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
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PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Five days per week	Mon/Wed/Fri	8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
	Tues/Thurs	8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS

Morning care	Mon-Fri	7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Educare program	Mon-Fri	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Educare program for Pre-K	Mon/Wed/Fri	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
	Tues/Thurs	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Aftercare	Mon-Fri	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Early dismissals—There are days within the school year when classes are dismissed at 12 p.m. Please refer to your school calendar for these dates.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST AND PROCEDURES

STEP I

Submit the following

- Online Application
- Non-refundable Application Fee of \$200

A link to the online Application may be found in the Admissions section of the Levine Academy website, www.levineacademy.org. Once you click the Application Tab you will be asked to create a user name and password in order to complete the application.

STEP II

Parent Tour and Interview with the ECC Director

Parents must schedule an interview with the ECC Director on the same day they schedule their tour of the ECC. Please contact the Admissions Director to make an appointment.

STEP III

Student Visit

All students must come to school with a parent or caregiver and spend 30 minutes in a class with their peers for the teacher and ECC Director to observe the child at play.

STEP IV

Recommendations

Students with previous school experience are asked to submit recommendation forms:

- *Early Childhood Center Director (Form 1)*: To be sent directly to Levine Academy by current Early Childhood Center Director.
- *Current Teacher (Form 2)*: To be sent directly to Levine Academy by the student's current teacher.

MARCH 9, 2012 DECISION NOTIFICATION SENT

Notification by email and/or letter of the Admission Committee's decision will be sent to those applicants once all of the admission requirements are met and all materials are reviewed. Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis and depending on availability.

TUITION ASSISTANCE STARTING IN PRE-K

It is Ann and Nate Levine Academy's hope that no Jewish child will be deprived of a Jewish education because of his or her family's financial circumstances. Because we recognize that school tuition and fees may be difficult to budget for many families, Levine Academy has assistance available.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Families who have students entering Pre-K are eligible to apply after being accepted to Levine Academy. A student entering Pre-K is limited to \$1,000 in financial assistance.

HOW IS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DETERMINED?

Assistance is determined in a two-step process. Each family's application is reviewed by a company called FACTS. FACTS reviews each application and sends the Levine Academy Financial Assistance Committee a general recommendation about the amount each family can contribute to that particular year's tuition and fees. The Committee then reviews all of the information that the family has provided and determines the award amount. All information provided is treated with the utmost confidentiality. The award is based solely on the demonstrated financial need of the family.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS AND DEADLINES TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE?

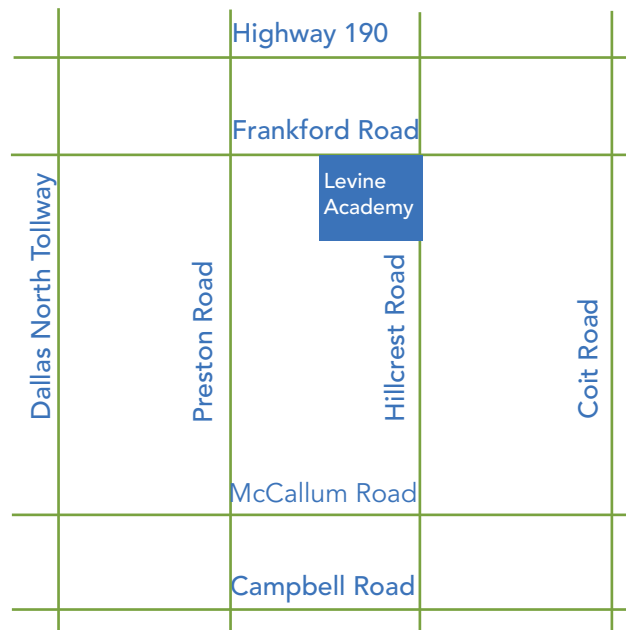
Please check the box on the Tuition Contract to indicate that you are interested in applying for financial assistance. Once the signed hard copy of the contract and enrollment fee are received, you will receive an email within one week. Please note the following important dates:

- **MARCH 9, 2012 THROUGH APRIL 13, 2012** - Time period in which to complete FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment Form and the school's Financial Assistance Form.
- **APRIL 2, 2012** - The Financial Assistance Committee will begin reviewing completed applications.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To help the Levine Academy Financial Assistance Committee assess your family's financial situation and to allocate our limited funds, we request your cooperation in completing this application fully and submitting it on time. Our Financial Assistance Committee has a limited amount of funds to allocate. Therefore, incomplete or late applications will not have priority for available funds and, in some cases, may not be considered at all. You are urged to complete the application on time and as thoroughly as possible. The primary criterion for providing financial assistance is financial need. Financial assistance may be granted to those whose income level cannot support the family and pay the required tuition and fees. Where a family's income level is deemed adequate for financial assistance, but the family has decided to spend its resources other than on living expenses, financial assistance will not be granted.

Ann & Nate Levine Academy is a leading academic institution in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and is open to students of any race, color, and national ethnic origin who are being raised within the traditions of normative Judaism.



A Partner Agency of



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Mireille Brisebois-Allen, Admissions Director
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ECC DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

FORM 1



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Applicant's Name

Current Grade

Applying To Grade

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I hereby waive my right of access to this document as well as my child's right. I understand that this document will not become part of his or her permanent file, nor will this information be forwarded to any other institution.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

Thank you for your time and reflection in completing this form. Your observations are an important part of the candidate's application. Please mail this form directly to the Office of Admission.

1. Please comment on the family's relationship with the school and its expectation.

2. Number of students in the candidate's classroom : _____

3. Has the student ever been dismissed or incurred serious disciplinary action?

Yes No If yes, please explain on a separate sheet of paper.

4. If an attendance record is not part of your school's transcript, please indicate the number of days the candidate has been absent each year while at your school _____ .

5. Do you have any additional comments which you feel would benefit us?



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Applicant's Name

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I hereby waive my right of access to this document as well as my child's right. I understand that this document will not become part of his or her permanent file, nor will this information be forwarded to any other institution.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE TEACHER

Thank you for your time and reflection in completing this form. Your observations are an important part of the candidate's application. Please mail this form directly to the Office of Admission.

1. Applicant's social and/or emotional development as compared to others of the same age:

2. Applicant's greatest strengths:

3. Applicant's weaknesses:

4. Disabilities or special needs (including amount of teacher time required):

5. Parental expectations, support, and attitude toward their child:

6. Parental expectations of the school:

7. Additional comments:

This student has been enrolled in this school for _____ year(s). I have known him/her for _____ year(s).

EVALUATION SUBMITTED BY

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Title _____ Daytime Phone _____