

# Camp Shemesh 2010

## Philosophy

Camp Shemesh is a fun filled day camp designed for children entering Mini Tots - Kindergarten. Our camp emphasizes individual growth by providing children with the opportunity to develop positive feelings about themselves while being a contributing member of a group. Children develop skills through arts and crafts, sports, water play, and many other activities both indoors and out. Campers develop traditions as they form relationships in a warm Jewish environment.

## Communication

**Camp Shemesh communicates, primarily, through email.** You should expect:

- A welcome email
- A class placement email
- A welcome phone call from your child's counselor
- Daily stickers highlighting the day's activities
- Weekly emails on Fridays
- Picture links

**Classroom specific letters will be sent home in the backpacks in addition to email.**

## Dates and Times

Camp Shemesh is made up of 3 sessions beginning Monday, June 7th and ending Friday, July 30th.

**There will be no camp on Monday, July 5th.**

Session I:	Polar Bear, Where?	June 7th-June 25th
Session II:	"Star" Spangled 4 <sup>th</sup>	June 28th-July 16th
Session III:	Get Hooked on a Hero	July 19th-July 30th

- Camp hours are 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Morning care, for those registered, starts at 7:45 a.m., and Camp Beyond is available until 4:00 p.m.

## Camp Beyond

Camp Shemesh will offer afternoon care until 4:00. Younger children (MT-2's) will rest from 1:15-3:00. 3's and above will join the Educare activities from 1:00-2:00, and their rest period will follow from 2:00-3:00. We will end our day with a short activity and snack.

## Educare

The Educare program is designed to enhance your child's afternoon. Each afternoon is a new age appropriate activity: Martial Arts, Judaic Crafts, Gymnastics, and Shabbat Chefs.

- **All Camp Beyond campers 3 and above are automatically enrolled in Educare.**



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### Carpool

Every child will be assigned a carpool number and a classroom animal tag. Morning carpool begins at 8:50. You are welcome to walk your child to their classroom but do not bring your child before 8:45. Being on time for your child is very important. Our camp day is full, and a child coming in late tends to have a hard time adjusting to the activities already in progress.

- **All campers must be accompanied by an adult to their classroom.**

Afternoon carpool begins promptly at 12:45, 1:55, or 3:45 depending on your child's release time. You are welcome to pick up your child up from the classroom five minutes prior to their release, but parents must exit the building using the door between rooms 1 & 2. In order to provide a safe environment for all our campers, no camper will be released from the "Big Room".

### Camp Pictures

Visit the Levine Academy website daily to share fun camp memories. Pictures will be available for purchase through Shutterfly.

### Weekly Camp Activities

#### *Havdalah, Torah & Shabbat Celebrations*

Classes will take turns leading our services. On Tuesday, we will say goodbye to Shabbat and usher in our new week. Thursday's service will celebrate our love of Torah. And, on Friday, we will welcome in Shabbat Camp Shemesh style. Our Shabbat leaders will sing one of our special Shabbat songs, and everyone is welcome.

#### *Music*

Campers will participate in music classes, instrument play, and camp sing-a-longs.

#### *Arts and Crafts*

Campers will create a variety of craft projects that encourage small motor coordination, imagination, and a positive self-esteem. All projects will be age appropriate and coordinate with our weekly camp themes. Campers will have time for free expression through paint, clay, and other art materials.

#### *Physical Fitness*

Powerkids will provide a weekly skills program. Gym and bounce time will be scheduled several times throughout the week.

#### *Science*

Weekly hands-on science experiments will compliment session themes. Our scientific crew will stimulate your budding scientist.

#### *Specialty Presenters*

Every week is enhanced with awesome specialty performances. If you spend all summer with us you will broaden your animal knowledge, listen to magical stories, stretch muscles in yoga class, follow clues on Scavenger Hunts, develop some new dance moves, and so much more.

#### *Drama*

Our drama program will spark imaginative thinking through role play and costume exploration. Story Drama helps with sequencing, repetition, and confidence.

### *Splash Days*

The children participate in water play every Monday & Thursday. Each Splash Day will begin with clean water with changes throughout the day as needed. Our youngest campers swim in different pools than our older campers. If your child wears a diaper, please put a swimsuit over the diaper. Please pack a pair of swim shoes in your child's bag along with a towel and a complete change of clothing. Remember to send your child with their swimsuit under their clothing on Splash Days.

**Be sure to label all towels, clothing, shoes, bags, etc. We will have a lost and found box but can not be responsible for lost items.**

### Necessary items

#### *Clothing*

Underwear (or diapers and wipes) and shorts should be in their bag every day.

All children should wear sneakers or tennis shoes to camp. *No sandals please.*

**Be sure to label all towels, clothing, shoes, bags, etc. We will have a lost and found box but can not be responsible for lost items.**

- Please send an extra set of *labeled* clothing in a plastic bag at the beginning of camp. This set of clothing will remain at school for the duration of camp. Accidents happen and we like to be prepared.

#### *Sunscreen*

We must stress the importance of applying sunscreen on your child before bringing them to camp. Please apply sunscreen to your child every morning at home. The staff at Ann & Nate Levine Academy can not be responsible for applying sunscreen on your child. Please don't forget the tops of ears, feet, toes, neck and face—and everything in between. The sun in Texas is hot and strong, and we want your child to be protected.

#### *Snacks and Lunch*

Please send a kosher *dairy* snack and lunch with your child. Please send their snack in a separate paper bag marked 'Snack'. If they stay in the afternoon you will need to send two. We do not refrigerate snacks or lunches; however, the rooms are air conditioned, and your child's lunch will not spoil. We suggest packing the lunch in an insulated lunch container along with a cold pack for those items that require refrigeration. An alternate plan would be to freeze your child's drink the night before and allow the drink to serve as the cold pack. By the time lunch is served, the drink is still cold but no longer frozen.

Levine Academy ECC is a nut-free environment. In order to safeguard the health of our children, please read ingredient labels carefully and avoid sending food containing the following;

- Peanuts / peanut butter / peanut oil
- Nuts (almonds, walnuts, etc.)
- Hydrolyzed vegetable protein
- Bakery or grocery store muffins and cookies – these often contain traces of nuts

### *Completed Emergency, Photo & Carpool Release Forms*

These forms must be filled out and returned to camp before camp begins. Your child may not begin the camp program before these forms are on file in the ECC office. The forms are required by the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services.

- The carpool release information lists people who are authorized to pick up your child during camp. You are not required to send notes on a daily basis to authorize those persons you have listed on these forms. *Please sign both sides of the form.*

### *Completed Medical Forms*

All children must have an updated medical form on file before camp begins.