

TEMPLE ISRAEL SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center Fully Accredited by NAEYC

BY ITSI BARDOS



When Susan Feld looks at her work mail in her office, routine pieces of business usually are the order of the day. But this day at the end of March was different. As she opened and began reading one particular piece of mail, a big smile broke out.

"I read the first word, 'Congratulations,' and I just smiled," beamed Ms. Feld. "I smiled because I was proud to learn of the news, and because I was happy for the parents and families of our current – and future – students. I also smiled because the work of our remarkable teachers and staff paid off."

The piece of mail she was all smiles about was from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Their official notification explained that the school Susan directs, Temple Israel's Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center, had earned NAEYC accreditation.

"Everyone likes to receive good news," said Ms. Feld. "While the accreditation process was quite an involved one, the end result is very gratifying. This is a big deal because this national accreditation acknowledges the high quality of our school through an outside validation procedure. It ensures our educational programs meet strict guidelines. We will continue to hold

our curriculum, educational programs and staff to the highest standards."

This accomplishment is especially noteworthy because NAEYC revised its accreditation system last September, making the criteria to earn accreditation even more rigorous than in previous years. Simply put, earning this new accreditation was much more difficult than in past years. As a matter of fact, the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel is one of the first programs *in the entire country* to earn the mark of quality represented by the reinvented NAEYC accreditation system. From programs for infants 9 months old through kindergarten classes, each and every classroom at Temple's ELC has met those challenging NAEYC requirements. This means that the *entire* program is now *fully* accredited, from when the doors open for early care through after care.

At age-appropriate levels, a wide range of educational opportunities are used, including: *Every Day Math* curriculum, *Land of the Letter People* reading series, instruction in Hebrew alphabet, clergy-led Shabbat programs, Torah stories and lessons with *Torah Alive!*, music appreciation, health and fitness activities, hands-on art experiences, visits to





Susan Feld, Director Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center

the Temple Israel library, computer lessons with *Gigglebytes* and a host of special events and programs. A fun and educational After School Clubs Program is available as well.

Stephani Infeld is a mother of two children in the program. She was part of the collaborative team of teachers, staff and parents who worked to earn the NAEYC accreditation.

When Stephanie learned that the school achieved this distinction, she was thrilled, but not surprised. "This accreditation reinforces what I always knew; that my children are getting a great education here," she said. "I am especially impressed and happy with the administration and teachers. Their knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm truly enhance a wonderful and fun environment in which my children learn and develop. We absolutely love it here!"

And as for Susan Feld? She is still smiling!

Enrollment applications for the 2008-2009 school year are being accepted. To learn more about the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel, call (901) 937-2784 or go to www.timemphis.org.

Isti Bardos is the Communications Director at Temple Israel



MEMPHIS, TN

THE 26TH ANNUAL TEMPLE ISRAEL PASSOVER SEDER WAS PREPARED AND SERVED BY THE WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM - TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD ON THE SECOND NIGHT OF PASSOVER.

