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Temple Israel School Earns National Accreditation

*Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center accredited by the
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)*

April 2, 2008--The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) announced that the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel has earned accreditation for its entire school.

NAEYC accreditation is a voluntary system by which programs measure themselves against a national set of standards and continues to be the mark of quality for children and families, early childhood programs, and educators. The NAEYC recognizes high-quality programs through its accreditation system in order to set professional standards for early childhood education programs and to help families identify first-rate preschools.

The NAEYC revised its accreditation system last September, making the criteria to earn accreditation even more rigorous than in previous years. The Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel is one of the first programs in the country to earn the mark of quality represented by the reinvented NAEYC Accreditation system. From programs for infants through kindergarten classes, each classroom at the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel has met those challenging NAEYC requirements, and the entire program is now fully accredited.

“National accreditation acknowledges the high quality of our school through an outside validation procedure that ensures our educational programs meet strict guidelines,” said Susan Feld, Director of the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center. “We are proud and honored to have achieved this distinction and will continue to hold our curriculum, educational programs, and staff to the highest standards.”

The Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel offers classes and programs for infants nine months through kindergarten, with early and after care options available, as well as after school clubs.

From the wide range of activities and learning opportunities for her children to the rigorous curriculum and educational programs, Laurie Meskin’s decision to have her three children attend the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel was an easy one.

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“Like any parent, I would like the best educational opportunities for my children,” Meskin stated. “Temple Israel is fortunate to have a wonderful school like this that not only meets strict educational criteria, but also does so in an intimate and caring setting with Jewish values and lessons woven into its daily curriculum.”

Stephani Infeld, a mother of two children in the program, was happy to hear the news but certainly was not surprised. “This accreditation reinforces what I always knew: that my children are getting a great education here.” She added, “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.”

In addition, popular programs such as “Mommy (or Daddy) & Me” are also available for parents and mothers-to-be. Each hour-long session has a different theme weekly where children play and have a brief lesson with fingerplay, songs, and games. Parents can enjoy coffee and conversation with other parents while their children play in the room with them. “‘Mommy & Me’ provides a fun way to socialize and network in a relaxing and comfortable setting,” stated Barb Gelb, Temple Israel Director of Education. “The positive feedback and response from ‘Mommy & Me’ participants has been tremendous, and we’re excited to continue to offer this fun program free of charge.”

Another opportunity for parental involvement is with TIPPS, which stands for Temple Israel Preschool Parents. Margo Fogelman recently served as president of TIPPS and glowed about what this parent support group accomplished. “The parents who participate in TIPPS are wonderfully supportive and helpful,” Fogelman began. “Among other things, we coordinated involvement for room parents and unique class activities. We also organized special events, holiday programs, and festival celebrations. TIPPS is an amazing group of dedicated volunteers.”

From its bright classrooms and enticing playgrounds to supervised access to other areas in the Temple Israel campus, children in the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center learn, develop, and play in beautiful, secure surroundings. To learn more about the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel, call (901) 937-2784.

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Led by Senior Rabbi Micah Greenstein and Cantor John Kaplan, Temple Israel has over 1,600 member families and is one of the largest Reform Jewish congregations in the United States. Temple Israel is a founding member of the Union for Reform Judaism and is the only Reform synagogue in Memphis.

Since its inception in the 1920s, The National Association for the Education of Young Children has become the nation’s premier organization for early childhood professionals—setting research-based standards and providing resources to improve early childhood program quality, enhance the professional development of program staff, and to help families learn about the need for high quality early childhood education.