

Early Learning Center

Temple
Israel



January highlights from the Early Learning Center:

We spent the first part of January learning about Tu B'Shevat which is the 15th day of Shevat, lovingly known at the "Birthday of the Trees." The mitzvah of *Shomrei Adamah*, partnering with God to be guardians of the

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planet (and of all physical surroundings), is easy for preschoolers to understand and connect to, especially when we have composting worms to take care of and plants to water in the classroom.

We learned what plants and trees needed to grow: soil, water, and sunlight. We examined a tree cutting to count the rings and determine how old the tree could be before it was cut down. We created trees by tracing our arms and hands as the trunk and branches and then used our fingers to stamp the leaves on our trees. The children also learned the importance of nutrient-rich soil and its different layers. We created edible "soil layers" with rocks (chocolate-covered raisins), weather rock (crushed graham crackers), composting organic materials (chocolate pudding), top soil (crushed chocolate cookies), and our live component (kosher gummy worms), before planting our "tree," a strawberry

with its green top attached. We also put together a seder plate for Tu B'Shevat and tried examples of the different foods that grow in Israel, including dates, figs, almonds, pomegranates, oranges, strawberries, wheat, and olives.



We made a family tree outside the classroom with pictures of students' relatives and pets. We will finish the month learning about how we can help the world in other ways such as "reducing, reusing and recycling," both here at the ELC and at the children's homes.

Wishing you a warm, healthy, and happy month ahead!

Shalom, Tammy & Elian



Students enjoyed their strawberry "trees" planted in edible "soil layers." Learning can be delicious!

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