

# Early Learning Center



**Tammy Labonté**  
Director, ELC

Sukkot is perhaps the Jewish holiday that best suits a preschooler's curiosity about the world. It is, like Passover, a reminder of the Exodus; but it also celebrates the very concrete experience of the harvest. At this time of the year, many New Hampshire orchards are open to

the public and most of our students experience apple picking or pumpkin picking firsthand. Sukkot expands this experience and gives it more depth. We celebrated the harvest of fall vegetables by making a soup for families to bring home.

Building and decorating a sukkah is one of the most exciting parts of the holiday. Every child made something to decorate the sukkah, and the process involved much more than creating a craft project. Along the way we explored foods that come from plants, we separated fruits from nuts and seeds, we

tasted and smelled new things, and marveled at the amazing bounty that is offered us.

And, of course, the sukkah itself is a fascinating place. Rabba Kaya brought the lulav and etrog and taught us about it, helping us

better understand the meaning of the holiday. How perfect for this age is a celebration that provides a child with something to shake in every direction? We are lucky to have our playground sukkah!

Tammy Labonté



**Photos, clockwise from above: preparing a harvest vegetable soup; volunteer and TIP board member Steve Sacks consults on a project; decorating and enjoying the playground sukkah.**

