



ABBY BOXMAN

'Little world of learning'

About a dozen tots picked up violins that weren't more than 18 inches long and performed a violin recital for parents who visited a kindergarten open house at Hillel Day School this week.

As with any such group of five-year-olds there were the serious ones, such as Amir Doron, who serenaded his classmate Francine Hermelin in recognition of her birthday, and the lighthearted, such as Jason Greenburg, who wore his baseball cap for the occasion.

The recital was partially an end of school wind-up with teachers Alicia Tisdale and Roberta Gross who lead the full day of kindergarten activities. The two, who have been working together at the school for three years, have introduced youngsters to hatching chickens, tie-dyeing, cooking, making yeast dough breads and give informal instructions in Hebrew.

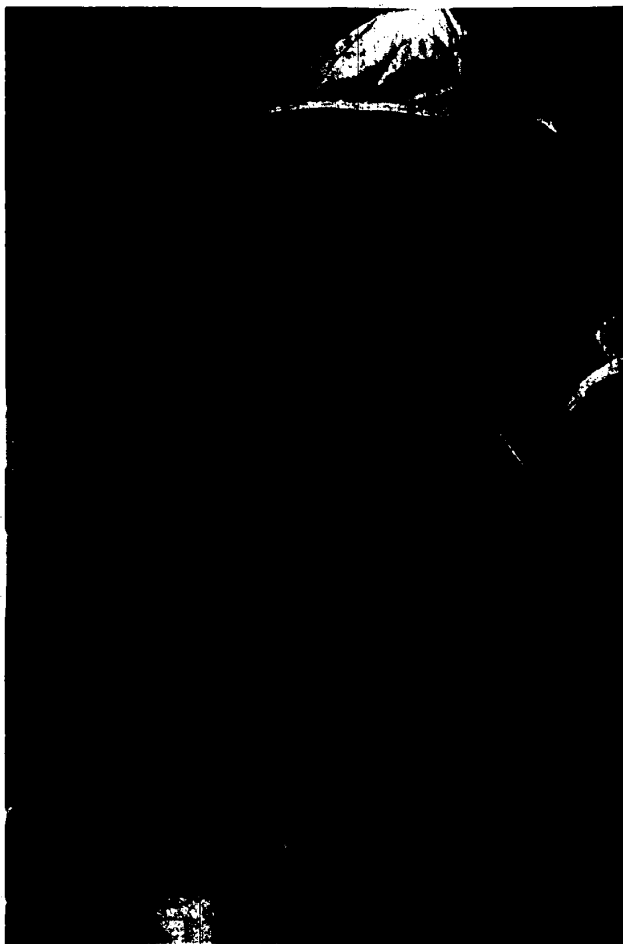
"We try to create a little world of learning how to live together. Most of what we do is a cooperative effort to teach caring and sharing," said Mrs. Tisdale. "And we try to make it exciting so they succeed at something every day."

Sadie Braver teaches music at the school, "but only takes those who are able to work their little fingers," Mrs. Tisdale said. "If they couldn't they'd be frustrated and that's the last thing we want."

"Every child here is succeeding at his own ability. Some of the kids are reading, and those who aren't, well, they're doing their thing, but all of them are bilingual by age seven."

The school is committed to humanity and Judaism, and it's run, Mrs. Tisdale said, "by human beings who care about people."

Staff photos
by Harry Mauthe



JONAH BOOKSTEIN



EUGENE GOODMAN



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