

The Learning Center at San Diego Jewish Academy

The Learning Center at San Diego Jewish Academy provides educational assistance, during school hours, for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to increase their success in the classroom. By combining educational and therapeutic techniques and a global approach to learning, the Learning Center strives to maximize each child's potential. The program is staffed by an educational therapist who serves as the case manager and coordinates a team of professionals to meet the student's needs.

Unlike tutoring, which is often associated with one subject or content area, educational therapy is broader, emphasizing strategies to help children learn more effectively. Goals include restoring self-esteem; improving the learning process, developing learning strategies, and helping the child feel more comfortable in the classroom.

Skills Assessment

Students may be referred to The Learning Center in a variety of ways:

- Parents may request the services when there are concerns about their child's educational progress
- A teacher may recommend a student, based on classroom performance
- One of the members of the administrative staff of San Diego Jewish Academy may make the referral as the result of team meetings with parents and teachers

A Learning Center staff member will conduct an informal assessment of the student. This assessment provides a diagnostic tool to identify strengths, weaknesses and styles of learning. Through the assessment, measurable goals will be created by the team of teachers, administrators, and other professionals who are working with the child.

Case Management

The staff at The Learning Center support parents and educate them about their child's learning process. The educational therapist serves as a facilitator of communication and an advocate among parents, teachers, and the other professionals who are involved with the child.

Once a student has been referred to The Learning Center, the educational therapist and administrators will evaluate the individual case and make a recommendation as to what services, if any, would be beneficial in improving the student's learning. Admittance to the program is at the sole discretion of the administration and The Learning Center staff. A signed contract serves to acknowledge parental consent for a student's official admittance to the program.

Periodic reviews of progress against goals will be conducted with the student's parents and teachers.

Lower School Support Services

One-on-One Sessions

One-on-one sessions, using a variety of instructional activities, are custom designed for the student to complement his or her unique learning style. Students work with different programs under the direction of a credentialed teacher or educational therapist. The learning that takes place in the individual session is then applied to classroom work and projects.

Small Group Work

When students are tasked with challenging classroom projects, The Learning Center staff may work with them in small groups, restating and clarifying the directions and supervising the completion of the assignment.

Classroom Support

The Learning Center staff often work alongside the student **in the classroom**. This inclusive service method enables students to keep pace with classroom learning. The Learning Center staff guide students through the instruction and assist them in fully understanding and processing the material.

Upper School Support Services

The upper school learning center will work with students in small groups to assist them in all academic areas, including:

- Study, writing and organizational skills
- Test preparation and accommodation
- Homework skills
- Strategies to help with learning differences
- Student advocacy in building relationships with teachers

Educational goals will be geared toward individual learning styles.

Staffing

The Learning Center is staffed by educational therapists and credentialed teachers.

Lower School

DEBRA COHEN, GMLS Program Director
Educational Therapist, M. Ed.
858-704-3795
dcohen@sdja.com

Debra Cohen has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Arizona State University, a Master's Degree in Special Education from San Diego State University, and a Certificate in Educational Therapy from University of California, San Diego. She received her Resource Specialization Teaching Credential from the State of California, and is certified in Cross-cultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD).

With experience as both a classroom teacher and a resource specialist in the public school system since 1996, Debra Cohen joined the staff at San Diego Jewish Academy in 2003.

Upper School

BRENDA MOSS, MUS Program Director
Educational Therapist, M. Ed.
858-704-3823
bmoss@sdja.com

Brenda Moss, M.Ed. is a Resource Specialist and Educational Therapist. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, and a Masters of Education in Educational Therapy/Special Education from National-Lewis University in Evanston, Illinois. She holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and a Specialist Instruction

Credential in Special Education (Learning Handicapped) in the State of California. She also holds permanent credentials in Elementary Education (K-6) and Special Education in the State of New York. Brenda has been trained in the Orton Dyslexia Society's Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching Reading and Spelling.

Brenda has experience in both public and private schools as a classroom teacher, special day teacher, resource specialist, as well as working as a private Educational Therapist since 1984. She joined SDJA's Learning Center in 2005.

Program Fees

The Learning Center is a fee-based program, and is in addition to the regular tuition at SDJA. Fees for the 2007-2008 school year are:

Kindergarten through 5th grade

One 45-minute session per week - \$1,700 yr.

6th through 12th grade

One 60-minute session per week - \$1,995 yr.

Program cost is determined by the amount of time and services provided and will be assessed at the completion of the student's evaluation.

For More Information

For more information, contact Debra Cohen at 858-704-3795 or dcohen@sdja.com or Brenda Moss at 858-704-3823 or bmoss@sdja.com.