



A Message from the Director...

5 Reasons to Choose a Jewish Preschool

Dear Parents;

Dr. Yvette Alt Miller* wrote a fascinating on aish.com about the importance of sending your young child to a Jewish preschool. I have taken some points from her article:

Preschool is the first major decision we make for our children and it can be a difficult one. How do we balance our desire for our children to learn about Judaism with our desire for them to know about the wider world? Some of us fear that we are not “Jewish” enough to choose a Jewish preschool.

Yet the Torah has no such qualms. Early childhood is a great time to expose our children to Jewish education. The results can stay with your child throughout his/her life and produce very positive feelings toward their heritage.

Here are five reasons to consider why Jewish preschool is such a good choice for your child, backed up by 3,300 years of Jewish tradition and modern research.

1. **Early Impressions count:** The Jewish experiences we give to our children when they are young, such as singing Jewish songs with them or speaking to them about the Holidays, are what they will associate with home and warmth. If we want our kids to feel that Jewish rituals are familiar and enjoyable, preschool is the time to start sharing them.
2. **The “Thirty Million Word Gap”:** There is a famous study that showed how being exposed to more and different words as a child gives those children an advantage in their future academics. When the children are taught about Hebrew songs, holidays and prayers, they hear all these extra words that they would not have had the privilege to listen to in a different school setting.
3. **Clay Candlesticks and Lumpy Challah:** When children bring home these objects that are so common place in Jewish rituals, it often inspires the parents to participate in traditions and practices they may have otherwise ignored such as lighting the Shabbat candles or saying a blessing over the Challah. One family started giving tzedakah (charity) regularly when their daughter brought home a tzedakah box.
4. **Find a Good Friend:** Preschool is much more than the hours spent in the classroom. When your child is making friendships in school, so are you. Getting to know other families who are interested in giving their child a Jewish education, and who may have some of the same struggles that you’re having, help shape us, and give us resources as we continue to grow and evolve.
5. **“Do You Know?”:** This is the name of a study Dr. Marshall Duke did. In the end he reported his findings: “Being familiar with family history was the single biggest predictor of emotional health and happiness.”

Jewish Preschools give their kids a clear sense of their history and identity in the world. It helps them understand that they are not alone, but part of a larger community, which has overcome adversity and celebrates life. Being able to answer “Do You Know?” might be one of the greatest gifts we can give them to help them navigate their way.

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy sweet New Year,
Devora

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*Source: Aish.com – 5 Reasons to Choose Jewish Preschool by: Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

Message from Morah Erin

BSD

It's the start of another school year! We are all so happy and excited to be back. We want to welcome Adeera and Yitzchak Bregman, Katherine Helmer and Miriam Wilner to the Casa class. They all graduated from the Toddler program. A warm welcome to **Benjamin Freedman** who is a new student this year.

The children have settled well into the class and are making new friends. The new children are adjusting nicely to the Montessori environment. Everyone is eager to try all the didactic material and to explore every area of the classroom.

The theme for the month of September is "Grace and Courtesy". We are using our "please and thank yous" while learning about good manners. We are practicing good table manners at snack time and at lunch. Sharing and caring for your friends is key in class and outside. The children are being polite and making every attempt to practice their good manners, so please help them at home to continue the good habits, which I hope will stay with them through their lives.



Morah Erin reads a book called "Good Manners" to the children to teach them about Grace and Courtesy

Message from Morah Erin

We had some very interesting and delightful programs in school in September. Monkey Rock visited us, and the children loved learning about the different musical instruments and singing along with him. He truly keeps the children involved with his non-stop repertoire of children's songs!

Dr. Caytak comes every Friday to play the accordion and sing Shabbat songs with the children. The children love singing and dancing along to the lively Jewish music. It is such a joy to have Dr. Caytak visit every Erev Shabbat.

We also had a visit by Jennifer Nicol, who instructed the children on the art of water colours. They each did a picture of a fish on a piece of canvas. The end product was truly beautiful. I am sure you all agree with us too!!

We all had fun doing all the crafts for Rosh Hashana, using apples and different kinds of paint! The children learnt different songs for the High Holy Days and were singing while working in the classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to us. Mary Cris joins me in wishing all of you a healthy happy and a sweet New Year. Shana Tova U'Metukah.

Erin Gailor



This Month's Activities

Monkey Rock comes and shows the children all kinds of Musical instruments! (Top left)



Dr. Doreen Teaches the students all about Bees and how they make honey. (Top Right)



Jennifer Nicol does a beautiful water paint workshop with everyone (Bottom Left) and Dr. Caytak blows a real shofar for all to see. (Bottom Right).

WJMP takes a trip to the MosaiCanada!



Message from Morah Chana

Dear Parents,

The children's excitement for starting the new school year, mirrored my anticipation of being part of the learning experience of the boys and girls I had the privilege of teaching last year, and of those that joined the Casa class this year.

Each of them is a treasure that I feel blessed to teach. For our Hebrew Reading students of last year, at the beginning of the school year, I prepare resources that enable me to assess which letters the children retained and which letters need review. I attempt to give the children a variety of options to suit their individual preference of activities, each day, to reach optimal letter recognition and retention. Every activity is tailored to each child's stage of readiness.

Our new students have been enjoying a variety of fun activities to learn the letter Aleph and are ready to move along to learn the letter Bet.

Having the option to work with the children in as small or as big a group as fitting and with varying combinations, is an additional benefit. I am a big advocate of a cross-curricular approach to learning and enjoy implementing it regularly.

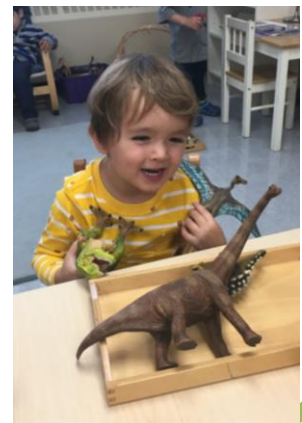
Some examples of how this was used already this year, are: the children doing art activities such as honey jars (D'vash) and bees (Devorahs). Firstly, the children needed a review of the letter Daled and secondly, they broadened their Hebrew vocabulary by learning how we say words related to the Jewish New Year.

The children's fine motor skills are fine-tuned and are improving with the variety of art activities that they enjoy daily. I plan to work on their gross- motor skills with the addition of Aleph Bet Yoga to our class, soon. As was done last year, the children mark off the Hebrew letters of the Jewish (lunar) calendar and enjoy singing Hebrew songs related to the Chagim (Jewish Holidays) and other relevant Jewish themes.

I thank you for entrusting your children in my tutelage and look forward to a wonderful year of growth.

Wishing you and your families a G'mar Chatimah Tova.

Morah Chana



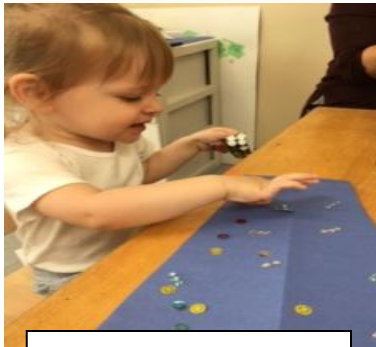
Message from Morah Rosa

BSD

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your dearest child in our toddler class. A special welcome to **Nava Azerrad, Elicora Cotruta** and **Sari Huber** our new students! We want to assure that our adorable toddlers will always be safe and having fun while learning. All our toddlers' activities are planned to develop their skills socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually. The first activity for our little toddlers was to let them familiarize themselves with their environment, their classroom, toys, teachers, classmates, and outdoor playground settings. We also slowly introduced our daily routine activities like Davening time, circle time, nap time, etc.

For this month of September, our toddlers had fun learning about apples, bumble bees, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and good manners. They also enjoyed jamming with monkey rock and dancing with Dr. Caytak every Friday for our Shabbat party.



Developing Fine Motor Skills



Apple Arts and Crafts



Science Nature Walk

It was amazing to observe that our busy toddlers were all enjoying their arts and crafts time. This activity will enable our toddlers to develop their fine motor skills (palmer and pincher grasp), social/emotional skills (sharing) and language skills (communicating to their classmates). They loved painting, hand and finger painting, pasting, and stamping. We hope that our adorable toddlers made you smile while looking at their awesome Rosh Hashanah arts and crafts.

Our beloved toddlers started to adapt with our circle time. They enjoy songs with movements like *Sleeping Bunnies*, and *Ring Around the Rosy*. Circle time activities develop our toddlers' physical skills and language skills. Our song of the month is *Five Apples in the Apple Tree*. This song was for the celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

Message from Morah Rosa

BSD

Our toddlers have a good time looking at the books in our reading area at story time. It was so cute to hear our lovely toddlers saying please, thank you and sorry to their classmates and friends. It is very important that they develop the love for books and reading at this age. There are so many skills that they will develop through reading.

Our dear toddlers enjoy doing pretend play most of the time during their free play time. They are so imaginative and creative to act and talk as if the play was real. Pretend play is the way where in our toddlers express themselves and apply what they have learned and observed from adults.



Toddlers line up to place Honey Bees on the flowers



Rosh Hashana arts and crafts galore!

The most favoured activities are outdoor play and science nature walk. They are energetic, and they love to run, play ball, and play sand. They are also curious to learn about everything. They love to observe their surroundings.

For the month of October our toddlers will be focusing on learning about Autumn and Sukkot. They will enjoy raking and collecting leaves, Autumn arts and crafts, Monkey Rock (October 16) and Dr. Caytak's Shabbat songs every Friday.

If you have any questions and/or suggestions please feel free to call me. Thank you so much for all your cooperation and support.

Morah Rosa

Machzikei Hadas bus is a huge success. Thank you Rabbi Goldstein



Important Dates and News

- Sukkot break starts **Thursday, October 5, 2017** and **Friday, October 6, 2017**. School will **not** be in session as it is the Jewish Holiday of Sukkot.
- On **Monday, October 9, 2017** it is Thanksgiving, a statutory holiday. School will **not** be in session. First day back after Sukkot break will be Tuesday, October 10, 2017.
- Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah occur on **Thursday, October 12, 2017** and **Friday, October 13** respectively. School will **not** be in session. School will resume on **Monday, October 16, 2017**.
- From hot humid days to the expected first snow fall this Autumn, anything's possible here in Ottawa. Please send your child with **sunscreen already applied and a sunhat** or a **jacket, gloves and hood** when appropriate.
- Please make sure you have a change of clothing for your child in the school. Each item should be **clearly marked with your child's name**.

