

**TEMPLE BETH-EL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER**  
**The Marjorie and Mark Gershwind Campus of Living Judaism**  
**5 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023**



# **GROWING TOGETHER**

**Vicki Perler, Director**  
**May 20, 2022**

*Wisdom begins with wonder... Socrates*

Dear Families,

The children lovingly named their butterflies, and they were set free this week. Some children asked, “Where are they now?” and “What will they eat?” Thus, ended an exciting process in which butterflies were released after weeks of close observation. The transformation of their caterpillars into butterflies heightened the children’s powers of observation as well as their ability to understand the life cycle of butterflies, the impact of the environment on living things, and the need for nurturing and gentle care. This process reflects the remarkable and rapid growth of which children are capable – that they are eager and willing to discover and learn something new about their world.

The children, their teachers, and I have spent many hours every day in our spacious and beautiful outdoor environment during these past two weeks. And our children love it! I continue to be captivated by their awesome curiosity and sense of wonder. They ask a lot of questions and use all their senses to explore and discover things. They are thinking critically and are learning to skillfully analyze, assess, and reconstruct knowledge. By observing, investigating and testing their ideas, they are developing a sense of wonder and a scientific mind. Using their small hands easily, they pick up worms, find acorns hidden throughout the play areas, discover and experiment with spider webs, pick dandelions, and so much more. Sharing the outdoor world with the children at school is such a gift and a blessing, and you can have the same experiences at home. Here are some suggestions:

## **Ways for Parents to Help Children Explore Science Concepts in Everyday Life**

### **Animals**

Watch a spider spin its web.  
Look for animal tracks in the mud.  
Act out how different animals move.  
Dig up some worms and feel them.  
Lift a big rock or piece of wood to see what lives under it.

### **Weather**

Watch the sky.  
Read a thermometer.  
Fly a kite in the wind.  
Splash around in puddles.

### **Energy and Conservation**

Replace flashlight batteries.  
Experiment with magnets.  
Recycle household materials.  
Black things warm up in the sun. White things don't.

### **Earth and Space**

Observe changes in the moon's shape in the sky.  
Collect rocks and group the ones that are similar.  
See how shadows change during the day.  
Point out bright and/or colored stars and planets.

### **Plants**

Plant seeds or small seedlings.  
Care for house plants.  
Examine parts of a flower. Smell them.  
Identify trees.  
Identify poison ivy.

### **Physical and Chemical Properties**

Measure and mix ingredients while cooking.  
Sink and float toys in the tub.  
Make and play musical instruments.  
Make soap bubbles.  
Sort objects (leaves, shells, rocks).

Stop, look, and listen to the sights and sounds around. Pick a dandelion, watch the butterfly in the garden, or listen to bird calls with your child. As you observe, explore materials, and express your thoughts, you and your child will discover the wonders of the world together.

*Shabbat Shalom*

*Vicki*

**HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday, May 24	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, May 26	Handprint Tile Fundraiser
Friday May 27	Spread the Light – Take a Photo of Your Child Lighting Shabbat Candles
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day – School Closed
Tuesday, May 31	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Tuesday, May 31	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, June 2	School-Wide End-of-Year Celebration
Thursday, June 2	Teacher Recognition Day – School Closes at 12:30
Sunday, June 5	Shavuot
Wednesday, June 8	Last Day of School – School Closes at 12:00
Thursday, June 9	Pre-K Graduation – 9:45 AM
Mon-Fri June 13-24	Pre-Summer Enrichment
Wednesday, July 6	Summer Program Begins
Friday, August 19	Summer Program Ends
Thursday, September 8	First Day of School for 2022-2023

## CONNECTIONS

**Spread the Light** – Take a photo of your child lighting Shabbat Candles on Friday, May 27 and send it to your teacher. We will be making a beautiful display of “Spreading the Light.” Thank you!

**Handprint Tile Fundraiser is Back** – We are very excited about our walls outside and inside the entrance to the Early Childhood Education Center. This visible space serves as a beautiful way to remember your child’s years at Temple Beth-El ECEC by adding an imprint of your child’s hand. Your tile dedication will help support the many programs we provide for our children and families. “Muddworks” of Great Neck will help us with this endeavor and will bring supplies to our school. The cost is \$40 per tile. **Muddworks is coming to our school on May 26.** Thank you, in advance, for your support.

**Registration for the Summer Program** – **Our Summer Program is a wonderful way to provide consistency and a seamless flow of the year.** We are offering programs for children who are two, three, and four years old. We are excited to offer the opportunity for our students to continue their experiences at Temple Beth-El during the summer. Stress-free transitions are important for young children. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call or email me.

**Registration for 2022-2023 - Don’t get closed out of a class for the 2022-2023 school year.** If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don’t hesitate to call or email me. I’m always happy and proud to provide a tour and talk about our school.

**Health and Safety Precautions** – Wash your hands!! Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults. The health and safety procedures in the ECEC are very specific as we strive to reduce the spread of infection in our school. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

**Dressing for the Outdoors** – Please be attentive to the weather every day to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor play. Our goal in all weather is to keep the children warm, dry and comfortable. If they are not dressed properly, the class is unable to take advantage of the open air and the many interesting outdoor spaces around the temple building. Boots, raincoats, an extra pair of sneakers, two complete changes of clothing (to be left in school), sweaters, hats, mittens, a warm jacket,

snow pants and snow boots are necessary. As the weather becomes colder, we will be outdoors when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please label all children's clothing! Thank you.

**Nut-Free School – Reminder** - We are a Nut-Free and Sesame-Free School. Please do not send food with nuts or sesame seeds in any form. And please do not give any of these foods to your child on school grounds. We have many children with serious food allergies this year. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

**Hot Lunch Program** - The foods children eat and lifestyle habits they learn have a lasting effect on their health. Due to the overwhelming interest of our families to provide nutritious meals for lunch, we offer meat and dairy lunches for all students. As you know, one of the values of our school is to maintain the highest quality of care whenever possible. This value should also be reflected in the foods we eat.

**Lunch Menu:**

**Monday** – Plain pasta, sauce, shredded mozzarella and vegetable

**Tuesday** – Baked chicken fingers and corn

**Wednesday** Pizza and Israeli salad

**Thursday**- Sliders/hamburgers, sweet potato fries and cucumber salad

**Friday** – Pancakes and applesauce

Our lunch is provided in individual packages for each child. We also have whole wheat bread and soy butter available to children who have not yet acquired the taste for these new foods. We hope that over time, children will discover and enjoy a variety of foods.

**Shabbat Sing** – Every Friday, I celebrate Shabbat with the toddlers, three-year-olds and Pre-K students. We join together on Friday mornings to experience a beautiful sing-along with me. It is the highlight of my week - every week. I feel very blessed to be able to teach your children beautiful Shabbat melodies. We sing, dance, and work together as a school community to create a joyous Shabbat celebration.

**Important ECEC Telephone Information** – If you have an important message and cannot reach me or Nancy on the telephone during the day, please ask someone in the main office to find us and relay the message. We hope this system will help you if you are unable to talk to us in person.

**Contact Information** - Please call, email or see me if you have anything you would like to discuss. My email address is [yperler@tbegreatneck.org](mailto:yperler@tbegreatneck.org). This is usually the best way to reach me.

**Links to Remember** – I invite you to visit the websites connected to the links below. The links relate to information about early childhood education, Jewish life and learning, and helpful hints for parents.

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoors>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2019/outdoor-play-is-essential>

<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2010/outdoor-play>

<http://www.jnf.org/> (Plant a tree in Israel for Yom Ha'Atzmaut)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb9uuvtk> (Ideas for Children's Independent Play Experiences Outdoors)

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness\\_1\\_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbec2699](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness_1_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbec2699)

<https://www.ujafedny.org> (Support Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine)

<https://pjllibrary.org/getmedia/c63e85f1-58d9-44fd-ae8a-696825e88d25/Jewish-values-ECE.pdf>

[https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_campaign=hiylfb](https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=hiylfb)

<https://www.invajy.com/20-happiness-quotes-for-making-you-smile/>

[https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter Thrive Guide 2021.pdf](https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter_Thrive_Guide_2021.pdf)  
(Ideas for Family Fun During Winter Months)

<https://www.mindful.org/noticing-connecting-with-our-kids-in-the-midst-of-busy-lives/>

<https://pjllibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playing-music-home>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/12/29/christakis.play.children.learning/index.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/09/01/the-decline-of-play-in-preschoolers-and-the-rise-in-sensory-issues/?noredirect=on>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/04/12/report-debunks-earlier-is-better-academic-instruction-for-young-children/?noredirect=on>

<https://pjllibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2021/what-is-rosh-chodesh>

<https://www.mommyshorts.com/2015/03/5-ways-kids-learn-at-a-reggio-emilia-preschool.html>

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/223-creating-routines-for-love-and-learning>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

[www.tbe-ecec.org](http://www.tbe-ecec.org)

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<http://www.reggioalliance.org/>

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/>