

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 27, 2022

*I believe the children are our future  
Teach them well and let them lead the way  
Show them all the beauty they possess inside  
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier  
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be*  
"The Greatest Love of All" Linda Creed

Dear Families,

The year is quickly coming to a close. In the waning days of the summer before school started, we thought of what our children might achieve this year. In addition to growth in all aspects of the children's development, it was exceedingly important to us to help our children be joyful, especially during a world-wide pandemic. Today, we can say that we've accomplished many of our goals and realized our hopes and dreams. These next two weeks will culminate a joyous and beautiful year for our children. You can see on the daily WhatsApp photos and videos just how jubilant the children are – broad smiles, laughing voices, and boundless energy during their play. Our children have clearly "lead the way" in our school.

Setting goals and working hard to accomplish them is one of our core values. To be able to see our toddlers - so young and timid in September - blossom, grow and mature into confident, independent children, takes consistency and patience. Because of their confidence, our toddler children are now ready to move forward and

continue their journey as independent thinkers in our community of learners. Our Pre-K children exceed the standards set for kindergarten readiness, and they will arrive next year with expert learning skills as well. Our teachers work lovingly, creatively and thoughtfully to inspire kindness, higher-level thinking, creativity, compassion, respect for others, helpfulness, a love of Jewish heritage, literacy, and other important values with each child every day. We have worked tirelessly to maintain and improve our national recognition as a school that models excellence. Our journey is ongoing, and all of our extraordinary teachers work every day to provide children and families with the most meaningful school experience possible.

The high value we place on social-emotional development is evident in our school. The children have a deep love of Judaism and Jewish values, understand empathy for others, and know how to establish and sustain relationships. We are committed to developing and enhancing the emotional literacy skills of your children, for it is a priceless gift to be able to demonstrate resiliency and adaptability for each advancing stage of life. Our ultimate goal is for the children to commit to creating positive and harmonious interactions in the social world in which they live.

Most importantly, though, we recognize that our accomplishments are the direct result of parents, grandparents, childcare providers and teachers who place love and hard work at the forefront of everything we do for the children. All the children in Temple Beth-El Early Childhood Education Center have the opportunity to share their individual unique talents every day and to flourish. And together we have become a beautiful community. As I walk around the school, I can't help but notice how each child has grown, and how we have all worked together this year to bring out the best in every child. The book, [Awakening Your Child's Natural Genius](#), by Thomas Armstrong, talks about the ways in which parents and teachers can bring out the best qualities in children.

1. Expose children to a variety of experiences to help identify hidden talents.
2. Provide children with time - time is essential to learning and discovering interests.
3. Allow children the time to grow and learn at their own pace. Don't pressure them with developmentally inappropriate activities or timeframes.
4. Provide a sensory-rich environment at home. Have a wide range of open-ended materials available for exploration.
5. Provide choices for children to help them learn how to make decisions.
6. Praise children for their accomplishments. Don't criticize or judge children. Criticism leads to low self-esteem.
7. Give children permission to make mistakes so that they will learn to take risks.
8. Provide opportunities for chores and responsibility.
9. Help children learn to appreciate their capabilities.
10. Accept each child for his/her individuality.

As we continue to help children discover their unique talents, we can be sure that our future will be secure.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Friday May 27**  
**Monday, May 30**  
**Tuesday, May 31**  
**Tuesday, May 31**

**Spread the Light – Take a Photo of Your Child Lighting Shabbat Candles**  
**Memorial Day – School Closed**  
**Rosh Chodesh Sivan**  
**Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K**

Thursday, June 2	Truck Day – Parking Lot
Thursday, June 2	Teacher Recognition Day – School Closes at 12:30
Friday, June 3	Spread the Light – Take a Photo of Your Child Lighting Shabbat Candles
Sunday, June 5	Shavuot
Wednesday, June 8	Last Day of School – School Closes at 12:00
Thursday, June 9	Pre-K Graduation – 10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 14	Flag Day
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 or June 3 and send it to your teacher. We will be making a beautiful display of “Spreading the Light.” Thank you!

**Truck Day** – Since the pandemic began, we have not been able to have Truck Day, and we’re thrilled that the children will be able to experience this fun-filled day again this year. The Temple parking lot will be filled with different types of trucks - fire truck, ambulance, police car, school bus, mail truck, ice cream truck, and more. Many thanks to Morah Cara and her team of teachers for organizing this event. It was a beautiful team effort, and our ECEC teachers are the best! Thank you all.

**Handprint Tile Fundraiser is Back** – **Muddworks came to our school yesterday.** We are very excited about our wall outside 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 helps support the many programs for our children and families. The cost is \$40 per tile. **If you did not have a chance to get your child’s handprint, Muddworks has graciously offered to create Handprint Tiles for us at their location – 6C Bond Street, Great Neck. Just tell them that you’re from Temple Beth-El.**

**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@tbgreatneck.org](mailto:yperler@tbgreatneck.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.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/04/12/report-debunks-earlier-is-better-academic-instruction-for-young-children/>

<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\\_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbee2699](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness_1_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbee2699)

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

<https://pjlibrary.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://pjlibrary.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://pjlibrary.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/vc/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/>