

# Shoresh Preschool Parent Handbook 2023-2024

[www.nertamid.org/Shoresh](http://www.nertamid.org/Shoresh)

973.338.1500 ext.116

[Shoresh@nertamid.org](mailto:Shoresh@nertamid.org)





## Early Childhood Philosophy

Our goal at Shoresh is to instill in each child a sense of self-worth. To give each child a meaningful, happy and successful experience learning and interacting with peers and teachers. We strive to provide a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment that reinforces a child's natural curiosity. Each child is a unique individual and is allowed to progress according to their own rate of development.

Young children learn through play and need the opportunity to explore their environment in a way that feels safe and secure to them. Our teachers provide age-appropriate learning activities which will guide the children through the important areas of language, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.

## Our Program

Shoresh Preschool is licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families (license# 07SHO0001). Shoresh provides a variety of programs to meet the needs of our families. Breakfast Club (breakfast is not served, you are welcome to bring your own) is available from 8:00am – 9:00 am, and Kid's Club is available from 3:00pm – 5:30 pm (4:00pm on Fridays). These are available for an additional fee.

Our preschool classes are as follows:

- 👋 Two's classes (for children who will be at least 20 months of age by August 31st) meet Monday – Friday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am – 1pm or 9am – 3pm.
- 👋 Three's classes meet Monday - Friday from 9am – 1pm or 9 – 3pm.
- 👋 Four's classes meet Monday - Friday from 9am – 3pm.

Our class age birthday cutoff date follows local school districts and requires a child to be that age before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year.



## Philosophy of Positive Child Discipline

It is the philosophy of Shores Preschool to help children grow emotionally as well as intellectually, to help children succeed, feel good about themselves, and be able to express their feelings in a positive and constructive manner.

It is our policy that discipline be positive at Shores. We train our teachers to use Positive Discipline as created by Dr. Jane Nelsen: [www.positivediscipline.com](http://www.positivediscipline.com).

This approach helps children learn to identify socially acceptable behavior. Punishment teaches children what they should not do; positive discipline tells children what they should do.

Within Shores, limits and rules are clearly defined, consistent with and in accordance with the appropriate development and age of each child, and the program in general. We focus strongly on the reinforcement of acceptable behavior and the prevention of undesirable behavior by being consistently responsive to the needs of the children.

The ways of correcting inappropriate behavior at Shores consist of the following:

1. Teachers will begin by validating the child's feelings.
2. Change the focus of a child's behavior by redirection of activities.
3. Help the child to deal with a particular situation on an individualized basis.
4. Removal of a child from the area of activity for a couple of minutes, so that they may have some "think time" (NOT a time-out) and regain self-control (taking a walk, getting a drink of water, etc.).
5. Respond to and reinforce positive behavior, acknowledging or praising the child when behaving well to let them know that what they are doing is appropriate.
6. Staff will communicate with the Director and the parents when a child's behavior becomes too disruptive in the classroom. The teacher, parents and Director will meet to formulate a plan of action for the child.

**\*\* No child shall be subjected to corporal punishment, emotional neglect, abusive language, ridicule, or any behavior that shall intimidate, shame, frighten, or endanger the child or their self-image.**



## Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of each child through developmentally appropriate activities and to encourage children to become self-confident, independent learners. Each age group has its own unique curriculum created in pursuit of the Educational Objectives found at the end of this handbook and here: [www.nertamid.org/EdObjectives](http://www.nertamid.org/EdObjectives).

Age-appropriate activities in the areas of math, language arts, science, social studies, art, and music are provided in a creative classroom environment. The classroom design allows children to learn through play and exploration. The children are guided through sequential steps to new levels of accomplishment through block building, dramatic play, use of manipulatives, and fine and gross motor activities. We ensure that the children experience a balance in scheduling which includes group activities, independent play, gross and fine motor activities, and quiet time. The teachers will also take into consideration the unique interests of the children and may plan lessons and activities around those interests.

## Jewish Heritage

Our multi-cultural program is integrated into the curriculum. We hope to instill in each child a sense of Jewish history, a love of Jewish culture, and create many Jewish memories. We celebrate Shabbat every week, recite the Hamotzi blessings\* before snack and lunch, and learn about the holidays through cooking, art projects, songs, and stories. Every year, our school enjoys a Purim carnival, trip to Israel, shofar blowing, lulav shaking in the Sukkah, and community Hanukkah celebration. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to use Hebrew words in the classroom such as Boker Tov (good morning), Toda (thank you), Yalla (let's go), and more!

Temple Ner Tamid offers a parent-attended Tot Shabbat program on the third Friday night of each month at 5:30pm, and a Wake-Up Shabbat program at 9:00am on the 1st Saturday morning of the month. Tot Services are also available for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. All Shores families are welcome to attend!

## Shabbat

Friday mornings are special at Shores, classes join together with either Rabbi Marc or Cantor Meri who lead students in Shabbat songs, dancing, and reciting the Shabbat blessings (candle lighting, blessing over the kiddush cup and blessing over the challah). Each week, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for their student to be the Shabbat Star! Parents and family members will be welcome to join us for our Shabbat celebration and the Shabbat Star will certainly feel special that week.



## **Tzedakah**

Tzedakah (“righteousness” or “charitable giving”) is an important part of our program. Sharing and caring for others who are less fortunate is a valuable learning experience for children. Children will create their very own tzedakah box in January which will be kept at home for coin collection until spring. At the end of the year all of the money collected in a culminating Tzedakah Day celebration. The amount collected is sent to a variety of charitable organizations which the children help to select.

## **Secular Holidays**

We respect and welcome all family traditions and customs. here at Shores we do not formally celebrate Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, or St. Patrick's Day. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, we do celebrate Love Day and you are welcome to have your children send cards for the other students.

## **All-School Enrichments: Music, Nature, and Movement**

Shores has a music teacher on staff who sees the children every week. She exposes them to a variety of traditional songs, and holiday songs. Our nature specialist helps our students explore the seasons and manages our community garden. Our Hebrew Movement teacher provides an immersive program. While moving their bodies, students are learning new Hebrew words.

## **Afternoon Enrichments: Yoga, Amazing Athletes, and Hebrew with Rabbi Sharon**

For our 3's and 4's classes, from 1pm – 3pm, are either enjoying quiet time or they are exploring various areas of skill in our enrichment classes. This is an important time for our students to develop their gross motor skills as well as social emotional skills together with their friends.

## **Spirit Days**

Occasionally, we will have a Spirit Day at Shores – pajama day, sports day, crazy hat day, flannel day, character day, and/or favorite color day! Although children are encouraged to participate, these days are not mandatory.



## Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays in school but they are optional. If you elect to celebrate in school, make sure that any treat that is brought into school is NUT FREE and must be store bought and not homemade. All pre-packaged food brought into school must be packaged with a clearly legible ingredient label so that we can screen for potential allergens.

Birthday party invitations may be given out in school **only if the entire class is invited;** otherwise we ask that you send the invitations by mail or email to avoid any hurt feelings.

## Snack/Lunch

Shoresh is a dairy, nut-free school. Your child should bring a snack and lunch with a reusable water bottle filled with water at the start of each day. A list of food suggestions will be provided in your new school year packet. In the event that your child does not have their own snack, we will provide them with a healthy snack from our Shoresh pantry.

All snack and lunch items **must be labeled** with the child's full name, including the lunch box and water bottle.

## Food Allergies

If your child has a food allergy there will be a specific allergy form that you will need to complete. Posters with your child's photo, name, and allergies will be posted in the school office and in the child's classroom to ensure everyone is aware of the allergy. Tags are made for each classroom backpack with the same information. Also, the families will be asked to not bring foods to school that a classmate is allergic to. Teachers will be in touch with parents if this is the case in your class.

We want to provide a safe environment for your child and to that end we will remain a Nut-Free school. Read labels carefully, as sometimes there are traces of peanuts/tree nuts in foods like cookies or cereal bars.

## Emergency Allergy and Routine Medication

If your student is required to have emergency allergy medication on site (EpiPen or asthma related), it must be in its original packaging, unopened and not past its expiration date. Your student will be required to have a "Special Care Plan" updated and in the classroom with the medication at all times.



In the event your child requires a routine medication (not allergy related) to be administered during the day, you can request the Shores office to administer the medication to your child by filling out a specific authorization form with clear instructions, written, dated, and signed by a licensed physician per state law. Contact the Shores office for more information.

## Clothing

Clothing should be selected for its durability, comfort, and convenience in play. **Clothing should ALL BE LABELED.** Overalls might present a problem with toileting because of the straps.

Sneakers with Velcro straps are required for daily use. No open back shoes or slippers are permitted. Open toe shoes/sandals are only acceptable for summer waterplay and must have a back strap.

## Toilet Training

Toilet training is a huge milestone in a child's life. In order to make it a success, we ask that you consult with your child's teacher for signs of readiness (see below) during your child's day. When your child is ready for toilet training, we ask that training begins over a long break (Winter, Spring, etc). Three- or four-day weekends are not ideal as they do not provide enough time for the child to understand the concept and be ready to use the toilet at school. All children are expected to be toilet trained before entering Pre-K.

Keep in mind that the school environment is different than that of home. While we do take bathroom breaks during the day, the activity level at Shores can (and will) distract your child from responding to an urge to use the toilet. Therefore, we recommend break-away pull-ups be used until your child can announce their need to use the bathroom. Parents must provide extra break-away pull-ups, a few extra changes of clothing including socks and a spare pair of shoes.

To achieve success, we ask that during toilet training, your child be dressed in easy on/off clothing. The best items are pants/shorts/skirts with elastic waist. Easy on/off clothing also makes for a quick change when an accident happens and a staff member must be away from the classroom to change your child's clothing.



The following list of clothing can prevent your child from reaching the toilet in time. Refrain from sending your child to school in:

- 👤 Tight Clothing
- 👤 Onesies
- 👤 Pants with snaps or zippers
- 👤 Overalls, jumpsuits or rompers
- 👤 Belts
- 👤 High top lace-up shoes

Soiled clothing will be returned in a plastic bag at the end of the day. Remember to replenish your child's clothing as needed.

### Physical and Psychological Signs of Readiness

- 👤 Stays dry for a long period of time (able to "hold" urine and bowels)
- 👤 Can recognize when diaper is wet or soiled.
- 👤 Has bowel movements at regular times.
- 👤 Can undress and pull up their own pants.
- 👤 Wants to be independent.
- 👤 Initiates interest in using toilet and asks to wear underwear.
- 👤 Can follow 3 or 4 step directions.
- 👤 Can communicate their needs clearly.
- 👤 Shows a willingness and is able to sit on the toilet

All students entering Pre-K (4s Program) must be toilet trained.

## Rest Time

All students who stay in school from 1pm – 3pm are required by the State of NJ to have at least a half hour of rest time. Teachers will prepare students rest time, while providing a calming environment. We supply the child with a rest mat or cot and **parents are required to provide a crib size sheet and small lightweight blanket (a lovey is acceptable to bring as well).**

While some children continue to nap throughout their preschool experience, most children will phase out of falling asleep during this time. When this happens, after the mandated 30 minutes, the teachers will provide your students with quiet activities (such as a book) to do on their mats in the dark, calm environment to make sure their bodies have time to rest, even if they do not fall asleep. Our 2's will have an hour of rest and our 3's and 4's have a half hour of rest time.





## Students with Special Needs

If your child has been evaluated and/or diagnosed by:

- 👤 Child Study Team
- 👤 Learning Disabilities Specialist
- 👤 Speech/Language Therapist/OT/PT
- 👤 Pediatric Neurologist

A copy of the IEP/IFSP (if applicable) must be sent to the Shoresh Preschool office so that our staff can plan for your child's individual needs. We may recommend an assessment period of approximately 4-6 weeks to determine our ability to create a successful learning environment for your child. All information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

While we are committed to meeting the needs of each child, we cannot overlook the needs of the class as a whole. We reserve the right to remove a child from our program if at any time the behavioral/educational needs of an individual child far surpass our ability to meet the socio-emotional or educational goals of our school.

Removal from the program, should it become necessary, is based on evaluations by the teacher, the director, and at least one other professional. This would be a last resort after meeting with the parents and trying some alternate strategies in the classroom.

## Fire and Lockdown Drills

Shoresh is required by the state to perform monthly fire drills and bi-annual lockdown drills. These drills will be coordinated by school administration and teachers/parents will not be given advanced notice of a drill.

These drills are VERY important for helping to engrain emergency procedures into your student's routine so that in the event of an actual emergency, getting the school to safety is a matter of habit.



## Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Walk-in drop-off takes place 8:50am through 9:10am. Doors will be locked at 9:10am. If you arrive later, use the “call” button and someone will come get your child.

Pick-up takes place at 1:00pm or 3:00pm and everyone is required to come into the building to pick-up your child. Downstairs classrooms dismiss from the multi-purpose room unless otherwise notified.

Breakfast and Kids’ Club participants should ring the bell and we will either meet you at the door or bring your child out to you.

## Health Requirements

Each child is required by the State and local health departments to submit a completed **Universal Healthcare Form**, exam date must be within 1 year of school start date, provided in your new school year/summer packets, as well as a record of the proper immunizations before entering school in September or camp in June. This form is required by the Township of Bloomfield Health Department. Your pediatrician’s healthcare form is not acceptable but may be provided until you can have the universal form provided, filled out, signed and returned. In the event you wish to forgo the flu vaccine, a special for is required to be filled out at the beginning of the year. Contact the Shores office for more information.

## Illness Policy

Should your child display signs of illness, as defined below, keep them home for the day to monitor. Should your child develop these symptoms while at school, a parent/caregiver will be notified and if necessary, asked to come pick-up your child.

**Signs of illness:** general lethargic/tiredness, pink itchy eyes or excessive discharge, irritability, lack of appetite, verbal acknowledgement of not feeling well, fever (100.4), vomiting and/or diarrhea.

When To Return:

**Fever** - Your child may return 24-plus hours after the fever has broken and no fever reducing medication having been given in that 24-hour period.

**Diarrhea and/or vomit** - Your child may return 24-plus hours after the last bout of either.



Our 24-plus hour policy refers to a full 24 hours plus the rest of the day. For example: fever breaks at 11:00 am on Monday, your child cannot return at 11:00 am on Tuesday. Their return day without fever will be Wednesday.

## Policy on the Release of Children

Each child may be released only to the child's parent(s) or caregiver(s) authorized by the parent(s) to take the child and to assume responsibility for the child in an emergency if the parent(s) cannot be reached. We will use the name/s provided on the blue emergency card you filled out as part of the school packet.

As per State Policy 10:122-6.5 Policy on the release of children, if the authorized individual(s) fails to pick up a child at the time of the school's closing and staff members have attempted to contact those individuals authorized by the parents and an hour has passed, the preschool will call the Division's 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline to seek assistance in caring for the child until the parent or person authorized by the child's parent is able to pick up the child.

**Important note:** Should a staff member determine that a parent (or authorized person) appears to be physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgment of the director and/or staff member, the child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the same procedure as above would apply.

## Policy on the Use of TVs, Computers, and iPads

The staff at Shoresh believe strongly in play as a learning tool. For this reason, Shoresh does not use "screen time" on any regular basis. iPads or phones may be used occasionally to research a question that arises during classroom discussion or to take photos of the children and their work. Teachers may also use cell phones to text or call parents with questions or concerns, particularly in the event that a child feels ill during the school day.

Should electronics be used in the daily curriculum at some point in the future, children will be engaged for no longer than 20 minutes consecutively and teachers will track each child's use of the equipment. All use of this equipment will be under the guidance and supervision of a teacher.



## Social Media Policy

This social media policy applies to parents and other guardians, members of staff, students, committee members, and volunteers at Shoresh Preschool. This policy includes (but is not limited to) the following social media and content sites including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, as well as the Shoresh/Temple website and/or Shoresh PR materials.

As part of our duty to safeguard children it is essential to maintain the privacy and security of all our families. We therefore require that:

- 👤 No photographs taken within the preschool setting or at a preschool special event or outing with the children are to be posted for public viewing, except for those of your own child(ren). Parents are advised that they do not have a right to photograph anyone else's child or to upload photos of anyone else's children. This excludes pictures taken by staff for which we have a signed release.
- 👤 No public discussions are to be held or comments made on social media sites regarding the preschool children, staff, or committee business (except appropriate use of marketing for fundraising events) or that could be construed to have any impact on the preschool's reputation or that would likely offend any member of staff or parent attending the preschool.
- 👤 Teachers are discouraged from engaging directly with parents on social media until a time when children are no longer the students of the teacher.

## Parent Involvement

Involvement in Shoresh by parents is welcome. There are several ways to be involved:

- 👤 Become a pizza day fruit cutter
- 👤 Sign-up for a Shabbat Star date
- 👤 Volunteer to help at our parent fundraiser and/or Art Show
- 👤 Attend our family holiday events
- 👤 Volunteer at our children's holiday events
- 👤 Come in to share a special talent that you have

Your children are the beneficiaries of a strong partnership between home and school, and so we strongly encourage that connection. Throughout the year we provide opportunities for parents and families to participate in school functions, social events, and celebrations.



## Parental Notification

It is the policy of Shoresh Preschool to maintain open lines of communication with our families. Important announcements, reminders, alerts, as well as routine communications are generally sent home through a combination of emails, text messages, and/or printed flyers in your child's backpack.

If your child is sick or we need to reach you quickly, we will call and/or text the phone number you listed as the main number on your child's registration. If there is no answer, we will then try any additional numbers you listed. In the event of an emergency, we will call the numbers on your emergency contact card until we reach someone.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during a scheduled conference on Friday, February 9, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to speak to the director or to your child's teacher. Open communication is the key to solving most problems.

## School Closings

In the event of inclement weather or when it is considered hazardous to open school, you will be notified by text message and email. Additionally, Shoresh will not be in session when the Bloomfield schools are closed because of snow or another emergency. We will also consider the Montclair and Glen Ridge school systems.

## Tuition/Registration

A non-refundable registration fee will ensure your child's placement in the program. Tuition is billed on a monthly basis. You can pay your bill through your account on our website, [www.nertamid.org](http://www.nertamid.org). You can pay using a credit card, covering the 3% processing fee, or through an ACH direct debit account for no fees. If you have any issues logging in, just reach out to the office.

Due to our NJ State ratio regulations, registered days cannot be switched or made up if school is closed or the student is absent for any reason. No refunds of tuition will be granted for holidays, vacations, emergency closures, or brief illness. Full month's tuition will be due for any schedule changes, regardless of start date.



## Jewish Blessings

### Shabbat Candle Blessing

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של שבת

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav  
v'zivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of time and space. You hallow us with Your mitzvot and command us to kindle the lights of Shabbat.

### Shabbat Wine Blessing

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן

*Baruch atah A-donay, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'Olam borei pri hagafen.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

### Hamotzi Blessing/Shabbat Challah Blessing

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו, מלך העולם המוציא לחם מן הארץ

*Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.



## COVID Policies

**As of May 23, 2023, our COVID policies are as such:**

- \* All staff are fully vaccinated.
- \* All classrooms are equipped with the highest quality room filters as well as the building's HVAC units having MERV-13 filters.

**When Your Child Tests Positive:** (even if fully vaccinated or had Covid within the past 90 days):

Contact the Shores office as soon as a positive result comes up. Shores will calculate a return date.

There is a 5-day quarantine at home (Day 0 is day of test). On day 6 (or next day of school if day 6 is on weekend) return wearing a mask for days 6 – 10 in school.

Or you may choose to keep your child home for the full 10 days and return on day 11.

If your child is under the age of 2, they must quarantine the full 10 days and return on day 11.

**Close Contact With a Person That Tests Positive:** (in the presence of a person who tests positive for 15 minutes or more with or without masks in the last 48 hours) OR **Home Exposure:** (living with a family member who tests positive)

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. However, asymptomatic students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should continue to test. Mask wearing for 10 days is recommended. Should symptoms begin, test your child and see above for positive results.

At any point, Shores Preschool reserves the right to change and update these policies, with proper notification, to conform with state and local health department guidance to ensure the safety for the entire community.

# Shoresh Preschool Educational Objectives

## 2 Year Olds

### **Social and Emotional Development**

- Being in a nurturing environment where each child can develop a secure and comfortable relationship with the teachers
- Developing trust for people other than family members
- Becoming familiar with surroundings and daily routines
- Using words to express emotions

### **Self-Awareness and Awareness of Others**

- Learning to share and to take turns
- Joining in play with others
- Cooperating in clean-up activities
- Participating in small and large group activities

### **Gross Motor Skills**

- Use of climbing equipment
- Climbing stairs
- Running, hopping and jumping
- Kicking a ball
- Throwing a ball or beanbag
- Riding wheeled toys

### **Fine Motor Skills**

- Use of crayons and markers, paintbrush and other objects for painting
- Use of playdough
- Sand/rice table activities
- Manipulating puzzles and blocks
- Drinking from a cup and using eating utensils



# Shoresh Preschool Educational Objectives

## 2 Year Olds

### **Cognitive Skills**

- Observing, exploring and making discoveries
- Identifying a variety of colors and basic shapes
- Identifying and naming familiar objects
- Knowing own name and beginning to know names of others
- Beginning to count
- Beginning to understand one-to-one correspondence
- Identifying own belongings
- Singing simple songs
- Understanding basic concepts

### **Language Development**

- Following one or two step directions
- Using words to communicate ideas and feelings
- Responding appropriately to questions
- Listening to stories
- Repeating songs and finger plays
- Speaking in sentences

### **Judaic Knowledge**

- Celebrating Shabbat each week
- Becoming aware of blessings for different foods
- Singing songs
- Learning to recognize Jewish symbols
- Listening to stories with Jewish themes
- Participating in the celebration of Jewish holidays

# Shoresh Preschool Educational Objectives

## 3 Year Olds

### **Social and Emotional Development**

- Relates to other children
- Uses words to describe feelings and actions
- Takes turns and shares
- Participates in group activities
- Exhibits self control
- Accepts teacher direction
- Helps with clean-up time
- Shows concern for others

### **Gross Motor Skills**

- Able to climb apparatus
- Plays games with beanbags, balls, hoops and parachutes
- Uses riding toys
- Can run, hop, jump and skip
- Catches a ball
- Builds with blocks

### **Fine Motor Skills**

- Uses playdough to create various objects
- Colors with crayons and markers
- Paints with brushes
- Completes puzzles and works with small manipulatives
- Plays at the sensory table
- Uses scissors
- Begins to use zippers and snaps

## **Math Skills**

- Number recognition 1-10
- Can count to 10
- Understands one to one correspondence
- Sorts objects into given categories
- Understands concepts such as big/little, tall/short
- Knows shapes

## **Self-Help Skills**

- Use the bathroom independently
- Wash and dry hands
- Clean up after playtime and after eating
- Can put on his/her own coat

## **Questioning and Critical Thinking Skills**

- Science activities
- Circle time discussions
- Hands-on activities that promote discovery and exploration
- Concept building activities

## **Language Development**

- Engages in conversation
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Recalls stories and events
- Enjoys books and stories
- Follows teacher's directions
- Recall of songs and fingerplays
- Recognition of letters

## **Judaic Knowledge**

- Celebrate Shabbat and Jewish holidays
- Recognize Jewish symbols
- Learn blessings and songs
- Understand Tzedakah and the importance of sharing and caring for others

# Shoresh Preschool Educational Objectives

## 4 Year Olds

### **Social Development**

- Participate in group activities
- Play cooperatively
- Seek playmates
- Share and take turns
- Interact with adults and accept adult intervention
- Respect others and use discussion to resolve conflicts
- Learn constructive ways to solve problems
- Follow directions
- Sit with group at circle time

### **Emotional Development**

- Show concern for feelings of others
- Express feelings in a positive way
- Take pride in accomplishments
- Understand consequences of their actions
- Display self-confidence

### **Gross Motor Skills**

- Walk, run hop, jump, and gallop with confidence
- Bounce, catch, throw and kick a ball
- Climb stairs
- Move around obstacles
- Clime playground equipment

### **Fine Motor Skills**

- Able to use and control writing tools- write and trace
- Begin to zip, button and snap
- Manipulate puzzle pieces in order to complete puzzle
- Can draw simple objects
- Can string beads
- Dress him/herself

## **Math Skills**

- Recognize numbers 1-20
- Count objects
- Use of daily calendar to strengthen counting and awareness of numbers
- Understand number concepts such as large, small and more, less
- Sort and count objects
- Understand numerical values and one to one correspondence

## **Reading Readiness**

- Recognize and write own name
- Recognize names of others
- Identify colors and shapes
- Recognize rhyming words and opposites.
- Identify letters of the alphabet
- Recognize sight words
- Understand sequencing and patterning
- Recognize beginning consonant sounds

## **Creativity and Imagination Development**

- Dramatic play
- Participation in musical activities
- Block building
- Art experiences such as easel painting
- Hands on experiences where children can explore and make their own conclusions
- Science experiments

## **Language Development**

- Speak to others and use words to communicate ideas and feelings
- Participate in group discussions
- Enjoy books and listening to stories
- Tell a story
- Sing songs
- Verbalize needs

## **Judaic Knowledge**

- Develop positive Jewish identity
- Learn blessings and recognize Jewish symbols
- Celebrate Jewish holidays and Shabbat
- Understand Tzedakah and the importance of helping others