



The Leonard & Madlyn Abramson  
Early Childhood Education Center

Parent Handbook  
2019/2020 School Year

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**2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

(subject to change)

**AUGUST**

29 - Meet the Teacher

**SEPTEMBER**

3 - First Day of School (PTO Welcome Coffee Hour)

13 - Special Person's Shabbat

18 - Back to School Night

30 - Rosh Hashanah, school closed

**OCTOBER**

1 - Rosh Hashanah, school closed

8- Yom Kippur, 3pm dismissal

9 - Yom Kippur, school closed

28-30 Parent/Teacher Conferences

**NOVEMBER**

27 - Thanksgiving celebration

28-29 - Thanksgiving Holiday, school closed

**DECEMBER**

19 Channukah Celebration

24 Christmas Eve, 3pm dismissal

25 - Christmas Day, school closed

31 - New Year's Eve, 3pm dismissal

**JANUARY**

1 - New Year's Day, school closed

6-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences

20 - Martin Luther King Holiday, school closed

29 - 100th Day of School

**FEBRUARY**

10 - Tu B'Shevat Seder

17 - President's Day, school closed

**MARCH**

9 - Purim Celebration

**APRIL**

7 - Model Passover Seder

8 - Erev Passover, 3pm dismissal

9 - Second Seder 3pm dismissal

**MAY**

4-8 ECEC Art Show

22 - Bike Day

25 - Memorial Day, school closed

**JUNE**

1-3 Parent/Teacher Conferences

12 - PreK Graduation

19 - Last Day of School

22 - First Day of Camp

## **VISION**

The Leonard and Madlyn Abramson Early Childhood Education Community (ECEC) at Tiferet Bet Israel is a nurturing, responsive learning community where childhood is recognized and celebrated as a unique period of life that impacts all future development. Essential elements in this process include contributions of individuals, families, education professionals, synagogue leadership, and the wider community.

The program recognizes that children learn and develop best as they interact within a safe environment where they feel competent and affirmed, and within an environment that they helped to create.

The ECEC promotes learning through relationships that help children feel secure and develop self-respect, respect for others, cooperation and responsibility for the community. The curriculum, infused with Jewish values, is based upon the best practices in the early childhood profession. The program goals include:

- Development of skills and attitudes that lead to success in school
- Creation of a sense of community
- Affirmation of the individual child and family
- Development of a Jewish identity
- Understanding of an individual's responsibility and place in the larger community

The ECEC is an integral part of a larger community that encourages life-long learning for children, families, congregants, educational professionals, and the community at large.

## **INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY**

Tiferet Bet Israel and its ECEC are committed to shared values of diversity and inclusivity, not just for all of its members but for the community at large. We welcome all people regardless of income, family arrangement, sexual identity, religious background, age, race, gender expression, or ability. We strive to make each congregant and community member feel comfortable and celebrated for who they are and all of their exceptionalities. We will continue to cultivate diversity and inclusion opportunities within the TBI community so as to constantly improve everyone's experiences within our synagogue. Our goal is to always foster an environment where everyone feels respected, valued, and safe. Within our ECEC we also offer a Sensory space designed by our Diversity and Inclusivity team, which is comprised of members of various marginalized groups, family members of those in such groups, special educators, and therapists.

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Philosophy**

The ECEC Curriculum is based on current knowledge and research of how children develop, grow, and learn. Such knowledge provides the framework for incorporating the best and most appropriate practices in early childhood education, as well as the best ways to foster growth of spiritual and moral values inherent in Conservative Judaism. Our early childhood curriculum serves as the foundation for secular and Jewish education and Jewish life for the years following those spent in our school. The program aligns with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards.

### **Overall Goals:**

#### ***Judaic***

- To provide opportunities for each child to take part in an enriched Jewish life.
- To promote the partnership between the school, home, and TBI, in order to strengthen families and integrate them into congregational life.

#### ***Social & Emotional***

- To develop a sense of self-esteem and exhibit a positive attitude toward life.
- To promote skills of independence, self-confidence, self-control, & responsibility.
- To recognize the intrinsic value of play and provide opportunities for cooperative, constructive, and creative play.

#### ***Intellectual***

- To provide opportunities for young children to be active participants in their own learning process, constructing their own best way to learn through varied and repeated experiences.
- To provide a continuum of skills and experiences which meet the needs of individual students, as they grow & develop within a dynamic classroom setting.
- To develop learning experiences, which engage the whole child - mind, body, and personality.

- To enable the child to explore, discover, and exert creative effort in order to problem-solve and make sense of their world through logical thinking.
- To acquire concepts and thinking leading to a fuller understanding of their world.
- To expand verbal communication skills and build on beginning skills of reading, writing, and math.
- To promote caring for and protection of our environment and the world around us.

***Physical***

- To enlarge the world for each child by teaching respect for and appreciation of each human being regardless of culture, gender identity, age, religion, race, and ability.
- To promote gross and fine motor skills and apply the principles of learning through the senses.

**EARLY CARE/LATE CARE**

Early drop-off care is available from 7:00am-9:00am. Late care is available from 12:00pm-6:00pm. The cost is \$8.00 per hour with 24-hour notice OR \$10.00 per hour for same-day notice. The full day drop-in rate is \$80.00. \*Drop-in care availability is subject to enrollment. Approval by the Director is necessary to see if there is availability.

**ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL**

Children should enter through the chapel entrance (across from the reserved parking). Morning drop-off is between 8:55-9:15am (unless enrolled in early care)

Unless you are late, we require that you bring your child directly to the classroom each day. Always make sure that you say 'good-bye', but it is best not to linger too long. We have found that the longer you stay the harder it is to separate. It is not unusual for some children to cry. We promise to do all the necessary things to make your child feel safe, secure, and happy. You may call during the morning to see how your child is doing. It is also in your child's best interest that you be prompt. We encourage a full day of activities and programs. Late arrivals interrupt the programs and hinder your child's adjustment to the morning routine.

If your child is going to be **absent**, please call the school office at (610) 275-6839 or email the ECEC Director at [ECECDirector@tbibluebell.org](mailto:ECECDirector@tbibluebell.org).

If you are using the **Early Drop Off Program**, please take your child to the designated early drop off room.

Please respect your child's teacher and class preparation time. At 9:15am the teachers must start their class day. If you have any questions, issues, or concerns, please ask the teacher to call or email you after the school day.

For dismissal please enter through the chapel entrance (across from the reserved parking). Please be prompt at your designated pick up time. Children will not be released to anyone without written consent. Please make sure to contact the office with newly approved pick up people.

We understand that, from time to time, circumstances beyond your control may prevent you from picking up your child in a timely manner. If you are unavoidably delayed at dismissal, we encourage you to call the office, if it is safe to do so. You will be allowed a 5 minute grace period and charged a late pick-up fee of \$20 if you are up to 15 minutes late and then a \$1 per minute thereafter. Price is per family, not per child. Please drive safely!

\*\*\*Please adhere to the 5MPH speed limit in our parking lot while entering and exiting\*\*\*

### **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

Enrichment programming runs in three sessions during the school year: September-December, January-March, and April-June. All children will have a morning enrichment/special daily. Children ages 2+ are eligible to attend an afternoon enrichment program in lieu of nap time. Parents may enroll their children in as many enrichment classes as they choose, provided there is space.

Enrichment classes may be subject to cancellation if there are not enough children registered. All classes are limited in size. Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. Only the registration accompanied by a check (when applicable) made out to TBI ECEC will secure a place for the child. There is no refund for illness, personal vacation, or snow days. A refund will only be given if TBI cancels the class. **Fees, if applicable, are due before the start of the program.**

### **COMMUNICATION**

Our school operates best when teachers and parents work together. The in-depth knowledge you have of your child makes you central to your child's learning process and you are the most valuable resource for the professional staff. You are encouraged to share with the teacher what is happening to your child at home - the arrival of a new baby, separation or divorce issues, tantrums, nightmares, etc., so we can understand your child better.

Information with regard to family issues and personal lives will be handled confidentially. In the event of divorce or separation, TBI ECEC cannot make determinations as to parental arrangements without legal documentation approved by our solicitor. All information is kept confidential.

Confidentiality: Children's records are open only to properly authorized parents, legal guardians, the director, and other ECEC staff, as appropriate. Records and information will not be disclosed to any other individual without the written consent of the parent or legal guardian.

For security purposes, we will not verify a child's enrollment or attendance in school to anyone via the telephone. Information concerning ECEC children will be given out only with written consent from the parent/guardian.

Parent/Teacher Communication: Communication between parents and teachers is encouraged. You will receive a weekly newsletter describing what has been taught in class. Parents and teachers are encouraged to communicate with one another with any important information be it positive or negative. Conferences are scheduled three times a year (fall, winter, spring) so parents and teachers can share their observations about the child's intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth. Of course, conferences may be arranged as a need arises at any time during the school year.

You will receive frequent communication from the teachers and the school office. Please check your child's backpack daily along with your email for regular school to home communication.

Parent/School Communication: Monthly you will receive a school-wide newsletter highlighting things that have occurred in the school and a calendar for the following month. The director is available to you in person or by phone or email. All messages should be directed through the office at (610) 275-6839. If the director is not available at the time of your call, please leave a message in the director's voicemail. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have an emergency and no one can be reached in the school office at the time of your call, please call the synagogue office at (610) 275-8797.

Concerns, Compliments, Comments, Complaints: Your ideas are always welcome. The only way to be effective in voicing your concerns is to voice them directly to the director.

It is advisable to save your specific communications for the teachers for after class, unless it is an emergency. A note in the morning is more effective than trying to speak to the teacher when he/she is with other children. The teacher will get back to you within the day.

In the event that you do have a pressing concern with the classroom, please make an appointment to discuss it with the director (or send in a note). If it is not satisfactorily resolved, please speak to the director. The ECEC Committee will not discuss classroom or policy issues unless the director has been previously consulted.

Your feedback is essential in maintaining the partnership that benefits the children.

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### **ABRAMSON ECEC COMMITTEE**

The mission of the ECEC Committee is to be a voice and an advocate for all of the members of our ECEC family. With the direction and input of the ECEC Committee, the ECEC director sets policy for all matters regarding the functioning of the school. Anyone interested in serving on the ECEC Committee must be a member of TBI and should contact the ECEC director, or one of the chairpersons. If you have any comments or questions, please contact the ECEC director who is a working member of the ECEC Committee.

### **PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

The PTO services as the link between the parents and the TBI ECEC. The PTO strives to assist the ECEC in providing a fun, friendly, and inviting place for children and their families. The PTO provides programming that enhances and enriches the overall ECEC experience. The following are some of the functions that the PTO performs:

- Through fundraising, we provide support for the learning environment and enhance the physical condition of the school.
- We plan and fund social programs for families.
- We provide weekly Shabbat challah for each class
- We enable the ECEC to provide programs at little or no cost to the ECEC community.

By participating in PTO meetings and events you can help enhance your child's educational experience. Also, becoming involved in the PTO gives you the opportunity to meet other parents, to form strong relationships, which strengthens the TBI community.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

It is our goal to utilize the latest technology tools as a vehicle to support the children's learning process in the classroom and to engage families in our learning community.

Teachers will use digital pictures and video to document the varied activities and skills that the children are experiencing throughout the day. Pictures and video will allow teachers to track children's development and celebrate milestones with families.

Please keep an eye out for pictures and communication through our Facebook page and Instagram and SmugMug accounts.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The safety of every child is paramount to the faculty and staff at TBI. To ensure their safety we have implemented a school safety plan that includes all emergency and safety procedures. All staff and faculty of TBI are trained in first aid and rescue breathing, as well as emergency evacuation, safe room, and lock down procedures. Children, teachers, and staff take part in practicing these procedures on a regular basis.

The doors to the school wing are kept locked at all times. You must use a fob or be buzzed in by our office staff to enter.

No child will be released to anyone without written and dated parental permission. Anyone other than the parent who is picking up the child must have a photo on file with the ECEC office. All information on the Emergency and Authorization forms must be kept current. Please notify us of any changes. If you or your designated caregiver comes to the school during regular school hours (not during your child's regular time) to pick up your child you must come to the school office first.

Our Emergency Plan provides for response to all types of emergencies. Depending on the circumstances of the emergency, we will use one of the following protective actions:

- Immediate evacuation: Students are evacuated to a safe area on the grounds of the facility in the event of a fire, etc. This area will be the parking lot outside the playground entrance.

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- In-place sheltering: Sudden occurrences, weather or hazardous materials related, may dictate that taking cover inside the building is the best immediate response. This area will either be the child's classroom or the chapel.
- Evacuation: Total evacuation of the facility may become necessary if there is a danger in the area. In this case, children will be taken to relocation facility at **St John's Lutheran Church, 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, Pa.**
- Modified Operation: May include cancellation/postponement or rescheduling of normal activities. These actions are normally taken in case of a winter storm or building problems (such as utility disruptions) that make it unsafe for children but may be necessary in a variety of situations.

In the event of severe weather, facility issues, or hazardous road conditions, school will not be in session. The ECEC Director will assess the situation as it arises and make a decision. The director will EMAIL all families to inform of any closures or delays, as well as TEXT through our One Call Now system that **you must opt in to**.

For building closures and in an emergency, we will TEXT your cell phone, but **you must opt in** for this service.

**To opt in for emergency texts from TBI, text ALERT to 22300.**

Please also check our website for weather and facility updates [www.tbibluebell.org](http://www.tbibluebell.org) along with our Facebook page and you may try to call our phone line at (610)275-8797 for an updated message.

We ask that you not call during the emergency. This will keep the main telephone line free to make emergency calls and relay information. The facility director may provide an alternate phone number (i.e. cell phone number, etc.) to call in an emergency event. Brandi Lerner's cell phone number is 267-968-0894. You have previously indicated persons to pick up your child in an emergency. Please ensure that only those persons you listed on the form attempt to pick up your child. I specifically urge you not to attempt to make different arrangements during an emergency. This will only create additional confusion and divert staff from their assigned emergency duties.

In order to assure the safety of your children and our staff, I ask for your understanding and cooperation. Should you have additional questions regarding our emergency operating procedures contact Brandi Lerner.

**FIREARMS POLICY**

No firearms shall be permitted on the Tiferet Bet Israel property (both inside and outside the building) at any time for any reason, except those carried by law enforcement and other authorized security personnel. If anyone brings a firearm onto the property, he or she will be asked to leave immediately. If such individual refuses to leave, the police shall be called via 911 by someone who is authorized to speak for TBI. If the President, the Rabbi or the Executive Director are present, they must be informed immediately. If none of them are present, they must be notified of the incident as soon as possible. Once the individual has been removed, the officers of the Congregation and the Executive Director will promptly investigate the incident and make a recommendation to the Board regarding the consequences (banning the individual from the premises or revoking the individual's membership, for example).



### **TUITION & BILLING**

TBI is a non-profit organization that depends on its tuition fees to cover operational costs. Therefore, it is essential that your tuition be paid promptly and regularly. If your child is absent, the tuition is still due in full.

TBI offers several payment plans to assist you with your tuition obligation. You may choose one of the following options:

1. Monthly payments due no later than the last day of the prior month.
2. Full payment will be made before the first day of school.
3. One half payment will be made on or before the first day of school and the second payment will be made on or before the first day of school in January following January 1st.
4. One quarter payment will be paid on or before the first day of school. Monthly payments may be made after that.

Regardless of the payment plan chosen, you are responsible for the full payment of the registered tuition by April of the current school year.

Tuition will not be refunded if the child withdraws from the ECEC before the end of the school year without a minimum of 30 days notice, in writing. If for any reason the child is asked to leave the program, the remaining tuition will be refunded.

Tuition will not be refunded for illness, vacation, or snow days. Those days will not be made up.

Unless you have made specific arrangements approved by the ECEC Director in accordance with the established procedures, if payment is not received by the due date, your child will not be permitted to attend the program. Reinstatement will resume when payment has been received.

### **SCHOOL CLOSING**

TBI ECEC closes in observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as Thanksgiving, Winter Break, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, President's Day, and Memorial Day. In addition, TBI ECEC will close at 3pm on days where the previously mentioned Jewish holidays begin, along with for the first two nights of Passover.

In the event of severe weather, facility issues, or hazardous road conditions, school will not be in session. The ECEC Director will assess the situation as it arises and make a decision. The director will EMAIL all families to inform of any closures or delays, as well as TEXT through our One Call Now system that **you must opt in to**.

For building closures and in an emergency, we will TEXT your cell phone, but **you must opt in** for this service.

**To opt in for emergency texts from TBI, text ALERT to 22300.**

Please also check our website for weather and facility updates [www.tbibluebell.org](http://www.tbibluebell.org) along with our Facebook page and you may try to call our phone line at (610)275-8797 for an updated message. If we need to close school early due to the onset of inclement weather, you must have arrangements in place for your child's pick-up. We realize that this may be inconvenient for some working parents; however, it is imperative for the safety and welfare of your child and our staff that you arrive in a timely manner after being notified of our closing.

We use the Wissahickon School District as a principle but not a conclusive guide, and will utilize other factors.

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

Teachers, school administrators, clergy, and child care workers are mandated under state law to report their suspicions to the Department of Human Services. The mandate includes reporting any suspicion of physical, sexual, emotional, and any other action that is seen as detrimental to the child's safety. Anyone who works at TBI has been cleared by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Nation ChildLine.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Our zero tolerance policy is designed to ensure a pleasant and appropriate atmosphere in our building and school community. Any adult engaging in unacceptable behavior such as but not limited to: badgering, rudeness, intimidation, profanity, terroristic threats, violence, or carrying a weapon will be reported to the local authorities. Such conduct will jeopardize a child's right to attend school and circumstances will be reviewed and evaluated while conditions may be imposed to accommodate continued enrollment in our program.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

Each child enrolled in TBI's ECEC must have a current, appropriate Health Form on record **before they enter school**. The health form indicates a record of up-to-date immunizations and the signature of a licensed physician.

Any child arriving at school noticeably ill with, for example, a rash or fever will not be admitted. Please do not send them to school. Should a child become ill during the day, the parent or emergency contact will be notified immediately. The child will be separated from the other children (under adult supervision) until the parent or authorized person arrives to take the child home.

Any child having a fever to 101 degrees or higher must be allowed 24 hours recuperation at home. Fevers tend to elevate and descend rapidly and are particularly low early in the morning. Therefore, a child who has an afternoon or evening fever and is found to have a normal or low temperature the next morning, cannot be considered well until the child has remained fever free for 24 hours without medication.

Fever is not the only indicator of illness. Several factors will be considered in the criteria to exclude child from care.

Conditions that may require exclusion:

- Any child having a fever or 101 degrees or higher (should remain home until they are fever free for 24 hours)
- Any child with diarrhea (should remain home until they are without loose bowels for 24 hours)
- Vomiting (should remain home until they are without vomiting for 24hours)
- Mouth sores/impetigo
- Rash
- Strep throat (should remain home for 24hrs after first treatment)
- Lice (should remain home for 24hrs after first treatment)

Please inform the school office as soon as your child becomes ill at home, whatever the cause. This will help us alert parents to bring similar symptoms in their children to medical attention sooner. Please do not call directly to your child's classroom.

In the event that a child contracts a communicable disease and exposes other children, the ECEC Director must be notified. All parents will be notified generally of the condition and possible symptoms. The ill child's identity will be kept confidential. The ill child will not be allowed to return to school until the period of contagion has passed.

A doctor's note is required for re-entry into school when a child has conjunctivitis (pink eye), ringworm, pinworm, scarlet fever, strep throat, whooping cough, chicken pox, or anything that requires a 24-hour time period after treatment. We maintain a 'no nit' policy. Your child will be checked before re-entry is permitted.

Report to the teachers any information such as a fall or any unusual behavior so we can be sensitive to any further complications or developments.

In case of a medical emergency plan during a school session, we will administer first air. The parent or authorized adult will be notified as quickly as possible. If medical attention is required, we will call the local ambulance service that will transport

the child, accompanied by a TBI staff member, to the local hospital. Every effort will be made to contact the child's own physician.

#### **MEDICATION DISPENSING POLICY**

If a child requires a prescription medication to be given while at school, we must have a doctor's note and the medication has to be in the original container. Please bring the medication to the school office. Do not leave it in the child's lunch box. We will not administer over the counter medicine. If your child has an allergy, we will follow the allergy plan to properly respond should they have an allergic reaction.

Usually, medications prescribed to be given up to 3 times a day, do not need to be given at school (before school, upon arriving home, and at bedtime). There will be no medication dispensed at school unless this is necessary, as indicated in writing by a doctor.

#### **TOILET TRAINING POLICY**

We change diapers when your child has a bowel movement, when they express discomfort, and before/after transitions (meals, naps, outdoor time). This is only done on an appropriately disinfected changing area. Teachers wear disposable gloves. We do not take a diapered child to the bathroom.

If you are in the process of training your child, we will only take them to the bathroom if they are wearing a pull-up. Underwear is not appropriate in school for a child who is beginning the training process. If your child is successful using the toilet at home for at least a 72-hour period, then you may consider putting them in underwear for school. (By successful we mean that your child asks to use the bathroom and has success on it. Sitting your child on the toilet to 'catch them' does not mean that they are trained. Please understand that we do not have the luxury of time to 'catch the moment' with your child).

Once your child is wearing underpants, your child needs to show consistency in using the bathroom at school. We understand accidents do happen and we are prepared to deal with them in a loving way. However, if your child has more accidents than successes, we will need to reconsider whether underwear is still an appropriate option in school. Children who are completely trained are taken to the bathroom on an as-needed basis and during appropriate transitions (before outdoor play, lunch, nap time). We are always mindful to ask children many times during the day if they have a need to use the bathroom.

#### **DISCIPLINE**

Our goal is to assist and enable our children to grow toward self-control and self-discipline. We recognize that such growth is often 'start and stop' and uneven. Each staff member will employ proactive strategies, which include modeling and positive reinforcement. Helping the children with the verbalization of their feelings is another sensitive, non-threatening approach we use. We also will remove a child from a difficult situation, giving them another opportunity to resolve a conflict in a positive way thus enabling them to seek an alternative to the questionable behavior. We encourage children to learn to choose correct behavior, and to learn how to make amends for bad choices.

The classroom environment and procedures are set up to encourage appropriate behavior before a child needs to behave in an inappropriate manner.

We consider you, the parent, as our partner in educating your child. Thus, parents may be called in to confer on an overall plan to resolve our concerns. Often, with parents and teachers working together, behavior can be improved. On rare occasions a child may require more help than our school environment can provide. In such a situation, the director will endeavor to work with parents to direct them to the proper resources. Parents are expected to follow any behavioral or educational recommendations of the ECEC director. In some cases, if the situation warrants, for the good of the child as well as the class, the child may be asked to leave the school.

### **VOLUNTEERING & VISITING**

Volunteers play an important role in the school. We welcome contributions from parents that can enrich our program. Our teachers provide many opportunities for parents to participate in the classroom. Some of the activities may include reading to the children, helping with baking or an art activity, or sharing a special talent or information about your occupation. All visitors and volunteers need to make special arrangements in advance with the classroom teacher or the ECEC director.

### **SNACK AND LUNCHES**

Tiferet Bet Israel is a kosher institution (see below). We will provide a nutritious mid-morning and afternoon Kosher snack.

**The entire school wing is peanut and tree nut free.**

You must notify us in writing if your child has any allergies (see allergy plan form).

In accordance with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will be serving water with our snacks. It is recommended that young children drink no more than 4-6 ounces of fruit juice a day. It is also recommended that children drink more water.

Again, following the lead of other early childhood programs, and in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines, we will be concentrating on serving healthier snacks. Because we have children with various allergies, including peanuts, tree nuts, and dairy products, we will be careful about our selections with regard to these ingredients. Should your child have specific dietary restrictions that require a snack from home in lieu of a school provided snack, please discuss this with the ECEC director.

We encourage you to choose healthy lunches for your children. However, we will serve your child the lunches that you send to school (see below).

There are a number of children with serious peanut and tree nut allergies in both the ECEC and TBI's religious school. **The entire school wing is peanut and tree nut free.** Other classrooms may have additional restrictions based on food allergies of children in that class. We realize that this may be an inconvenience. However, we ask your cooperation due to the serious complications that may result. The risk of contamination in an early childhood setting is increased because young children tend to share their food. Even though this is discouraged, there is a chance that it may happen. Also, residue may remain on a table. Please be aware of ingredients and avoid sending any food that contains peanuts or tree nuts.

A list of alternative lunch ideas is available in the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

All packed lunches must be **dairy or parve**. Dairy is defined as any milk or milk-based food. Parve is defined as neither meat nor dairy; "neutral" such as fish, fruits, vegetables, eggs, and grain. Children may bring a non-meat, non-poultry, non-shellfish lunch to school. Some examples of a kosher dairy or parve choices are egg salad, yogurt, tuna, soy nut butter, bagels. Of course, fresh fruit and vegetables are wonderful, safe choices too.

All baked goods served in class much come from an approved bakery or have a Kosher symbol (list may be obtained from TBI main or school offices). Be sure that any baked goods served are keeping with the school allergy policy. Since dairy allergies are common it is essential that you inform the school if a baked good is brought in that contains eggs or dairy.

No baked goods from home are allowed, even if you keep a kosher home. Thank you for your cooperation.

Any food brought in to be shared for birthday parties, Shabbat celebrations, holiday celebrations, or any other group activity must meet the standards above. All food brought in to be shared must be approved by the ECEC office staff or the teachers. If the food brought in is not appropriate it will be sent home.

### CLOTHING

Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that is washable and sturdy for outdoor play. Since we go outside daily, except in extreme weather, each child must always have a set of seasonal, weather-appropriate clothing (e.g. boots, rain gear, snow pants, mittens, hat, etc.). It is strongly suggested that a set of weather-appropriate clothing be left at school.

It is also important that the outfit is conducive and child friendly for toileting, teacher friendly for diapering; elastic waistbands and loose fitting clothing work the best. Long skirts may cause tripping or falling on the playground structures. Please note that one-piece suit, overalls, belts, and suspender type clothing make it very difficult for older children to be independent in the bathroom process.

All items of clothing should be clearly labeled including all outerwear such as jackets, hats, and gloves. Each child is required to have a complete and clearly labeled change of seasonally appropriate clothing, including socks, to be left at school. These clothes will be used if there is a toileting accident or a wet play experience that requires a change of clothes.

It is advised that children wear sneakers to school. These are the safest for climbing on the climbers in the playground.

### TZEDAKAH

Children are encouraged to bring some coins for Tzedakah (charity) on Friday. Please send a few coins with your child in order to reinforce this precious mitzvah (good deed). During the course of the year we hope to sensitize the children to the needs of those less fortunate through various Tzedakah projects.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthday celebrations are conducted at snack time. Any class treat must come from an approved bakery or have a kosher symbol (see SNACKS AND LUNCHES). Dietary laws of Kashrut are strictly observed. **Foods containing peanuts or tree nuts are not allowed.** In addition, please inform us of any items containing eggs or dairy.

Invitations to home parties may be distributed at school ONLY if the entire class is invited.