



2020 – 2021
Information and Application Packet

(703) 998-6072
preschool@agudasachim-va.org

We invite you to join us for the 2020 – 2021 school year!

Agudas Achim Preschool is pleased to open registration for the 2020 – 2021 school year. With our flexible schedule, creative programming, and commitment to teaching Jewish values and traditions, Agudas Achim Preschool is unique among early childhood programs in Northern Virginia. We offer:

- A focus on the whole child, ensuring that all children are respected, supported, engaged, and challenged.
- A developmentally appropriate, play-based, and child-centered approach to teaching.
- A general curriculum focused on the development of social-emotional, motor, and early literacy, numeracy, and problem solving skills.
- A Judaic curriculum centered on holiday observance and traditions, Jewish values, and Torah.
- Access to spacious, well-equipped indoor and outdoor play spaces, including our one-of-a-kind playground.
- Opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math concepts in our STEAM Lab.
- Introduction to *Ivrit* (Hebrew), including weekly classes.
- Bimonthly movement classes with our on-staff occupational therapist.
- Bimonthly music classes.
- Opportunities for both directed and self-guided learning through play.
- Annual speech/language, hearing, vision, and developmental screenings.
- Small class sizes and an experienced, dedicated staff.
- Flexibility for parents, including optional afternoons, early drop-off, and late pick-up.
- An extended, ten-month school year calendar (September – June).
- A warm and caring school community that welcomes all families of all backgrounds, faith traditions, and levels of Jewish observance.

Gan Chaverim (core morning program) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

All children enrolled in Agudas Achim Preschool participate in *Gan Chaverim*, or core morning program. *Gan Chaverim*, which translates as ‘Garden of Friends,’ operates from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and includes a healthy snack (provided by the school) and time for lunch (brought from home).

While at school, children participate in circle time with their friends; enjoy singing, dancing, and hearing stories; have time to explore toys and games during free play; create arts and crafts; engage in social and dramatic play with their classmates; are exposed to the Hebrew language; take part in teacher guided projects or explorations; experiment, create, and collaborate in our STEAM Lab; and play on our playground and/or in our social hall, which is equipped with a variety of gross motor and open-ended toys.

We also celebrate *Shabbat* (Sabbath) every Friday. We light candles, enjoy *challah* (braided bread) and grape juice for snack, and gather with other classes and the rabbi, chazzan, education director, and/or special guests before dismissal. We sing songs and prayers, share stories and teachings, and welcome *Shabbat* as a community.

Enrollment Plans

In keeping with the policies of the local public schools, children must be two years old by September 30 in order to enroll.

Two-Year-Old Classes

- 2 day (Tuesday and Thursday)
- 3 day (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)
- 5 day (Monday – Friday)

Three-Year-Old Classes

- 4 day (Tuesday – Friday)
- 5 day (Monday – Friday)

Four-Year-Old Classes

- 5 day (Monday – Friday)

Gan Chaverim (core morning program) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm cont'd

Curriculum and Key Learning Objectives

The curriculum for *Gan Chaverim* focuses on social-emotional, language, cognitive, and gross and fine motor skill development as well as Jewish values and traditions. Key learning objectives for children in *Gan Chaverim* include:

- Become more independent; build the confidence to separate from their parents each day and put away belongings; follow classroom routines such as sitting in circle time, lining up, picking up toys, and preparing for snack; and feel and know they are an important part of a larger group.
- Learn to socialize and communicate with peers and adults outside their family; develop the verbal and non-verbal skills that make it possible to form positive and successful relationships with others.
- Become immersed in the beliefs, customs, and ethics of Judaism through simple daily prayers, weekly Shabbat programs, Biblical narratives and games, and traditional foods. In their classroom routines, activities, and discussions, teachers emphasize Jewish values such as *tzedakah* (charity), *b'tzelem Elohim* (we are all created in the image of God), *derech erez* (common decency and appropriate behavior, literally translated as 'way of the world'), and *kavod* (respect for one another).
- Develop problem solving skills by engaging with toys, materials, and their peers in new and challenging ways, and develop cooperation and collaboration skills by solving new and challenging problems, skills that are essential in today's ever changing, technological world.
- Develop early literacy skills by participating in age appropriate activities such as: read-alouds; group discussions that build vocabulary and understanding; nursery rhymes and finger plays that teach phonological awareness (such as syllables, onset and rime); and recognizing and writing letters.
- Develop early numeracy skills by participating in age appropriate activities such as: classifying and sorting objects by color, shape, and function; solving puzzles by applying logic and reason; counting; and recognizing numbers.
- Develop fine and gross motor skills, skills that factor into a child's ability to effectively participate in school related activities and perform tasks later on, by taking part in physically challenging teacher directed activities and free play.
- Make a successful transition to kindergarten after their pre-K year.

Sha'at Mischak (optional afternoon program) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

All children enrolled in Agudas Achim Preschool's *Gan Chaverim* program are eligible to participate in *Sha'at Mischak*, the optional afternoon program, which operates from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. *Sha'at Mischak* translates as 'Play Time.'

The program offers flexibility to enroll for one, two, three, four, or five afternoons per week, provided that the child has attended *Gan Chaverim* on that day. To allow for unexpected changes in families' schedules, enrollment in *Sha'at Mischak* is on a month to month basis.

However, space is limited. You are guaranteed a spot only if you register before the start of the school year. After the start of the school year, registration is subject to availability.

Activities

Children who stay for *Sha'at Mischak* are divided into different groups based on their nap time needs. They may move from one group to another over the course of the year as those needs change. In general, children participate in the following activities:

- Super Sleepy Koalas (two and three-year-olds)
 - nap time for 2 – 2 ½ hours
 - snack

- Sorta Sleepy Bunnies (three and four-year-olds)
 - nap time for 1 ½ – 2 hours
 - snack
 - free play

- So Not Sleepy Giraffes (three and four-year-olds)
 - nap time or quiet time for 30 – 60 minutes
 - free play
 - snack
 - activities such as cooking, gardening, singing, creating arts and crafts, etc.

- Wide Awake Wombats (four-year-olds)
 - quiet time for 30 – 45 minutes
 - free play
 - snack
 - activities such as cooking, gardening, singing, creating arts and crafts, etc.

Boker Tov (optional early drop-off) 7:30 am – 9:00 am

To accommodate the schedules of working parents, Agudas Achim Preschool offers *Boker Tov* (early drop-off). *Boker Tov*, or 'Good Morning,' is available from 7:30 am to 9:00 am, Monday through Friday.

***Boker Tov* offers flexibility; however, space is limited. You are guaranteed a spot only if you register before the start of the school year. After the start of the school year, registration is subject to availability.**

During *Boker Tov*, children play in a mixed-age group in the social hall, on the playground, or in one of the classrooms. Children can be dropped off anytime between 7:30 am and 8:45 am. At 8:45 am, teachers bring the children to their classrooms where they play until their school day formally begins at 9:00 am.

Erev Tov (optional late pick-up) 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm*

We also offer *Erev Tov* (or late pick-up), for children who have stayed for *Sha'at Mischak* that day. *Erev Tov*, which means 'Good Evening,' is offered from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

***In order to give our families and staff time to prepare for *Shabbat*, there is no *Erev Tov* on Fridays. Our school day ends at 4 pm every Friday.**

***Erev Tov* offers flexibility; however, space is limited. You are guaranteed a spot only if you register before the start of the school year. After the start of the school year, registration is subject to availability.**

During *Erev Tov*, children gather into a mixed-age group and play in the social hall, on the playground, or in one of the classrooms. Children can be picked up anytime between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

In Their Own Words...

Here's what families are saying about Agudas Achim Preschool!

"The teachers and other staff are phenomenal. They create a homey, loving environment, where children are encouraged to explore and create. The intimate setting – both in terms of the individual classes and the school as a whole – is a tremendous benefit. The children get to know everyone...The hardest part of the day is dragging our son away from the books and toys and friends when it's time to go home in the afternoon."

The Quigley-Goldberg Family

"Our daughter thrived for two years in the warm, creative, and stimulating environment at Agudas Achim Preschool. It's not a daycare! The programming incorporates social development, school readiness and skill building all while being fun and interesting. The curriculum incorporates wonderful dimensions of Jewish exploration – from learning about Israel and Jewish holidays to baking challah, singing songs, and exploring Jewish traditions. The teachers did such a great job preparing our child for kindergarten that she had no transition issues – she was just ready and raring to go! Also, the physical space at Agudas is terrific and nicer than many similar places I have seen. The good-sized classrooms have natural light and plenty of supplies, there's a great, fenced playground (hard to find at a lot of preschools), and large bright room for play during inclement weather. The administration of the program is top-notch – the director is accessible, responsive, and caring. The only negative thing about Agudas Achim Preschool is that it doesn't go through the 12th grade!"

The Levine-Finley Family

"In addition to the fantastic facilities, the care at Agudas was beyond our expectations of a "day care" – Agudas was more like a school. Our son was there for two years, and the staff and administration went the extra mile with him, helping us understand and work with his learning disability. Whereas it could have been easier to just ease us out of the school, the Agudas staff kept working with us to find ways for him to grow, and further than that, they guided us to make sure that he was well positioned to receive the proper care and attention as he matriculated to his public school kindergarten. We are truly and eternally thankful for their patience and kindness towards our family, especially at that critical time in our child's development. THANKS AGUDAS!"

The Oakey Family

"Agudas Achim Preschool is made up of warm, loving people. We have watched with wonder as our granddaughter has thrived emotionally, physically, and academically. An added plus has been the inviting nature of the staff towards us. We are looking forward to being part of the preschool as our other grandchildren become part of the loving family of Agudas Achim."

The Bonck Grandparents

Registration Process

Visiting the Preschool

You will want to visit Agudas Achim Preschool before deciding whether to apply for admission. Please call the office at (703) 998-6072 or send an email to preschool@agudasachim-va.org to schedule an appointment.

Reserving Your Spot

For returning students, simply return the application form.

For all new students, please include a one-time only, non-refundable \$75 fee along with the application form. Checks should be made out to *Agudas Achim Preschool*.

Families will receive acceptance letters and enrollment contracts in early February. Once a child is offered admission, their class placement is secured with a \$250.00 non-refundable deposit. For all students, this deposit is applied to the first month's tuition. The remainder of the first month's tuition is due by June 10, 2020. Failure to pay the full first month's tuition by this date will result in forfeiture of your child's place in the class.

For returning families and members of Agudas Achim Congregation, registration begins December 2, 2019. Application forms (and application fees for new students) may be mailed to or dropped off at the preschool.

For new families, in-person registration begins January 6, 2020 at 8:00 am. Application forms will be processed in the order in which they were received.

Withdrawal Policy

The withdrawal policy, which is stated in the parent handbook, as well as in the enrollment contract families sign after they have been offered – and have accepted – a spot in the preschool, is as follows:

Written notification is required for any withdrawal. If you notify the preschool director by July 31, 2020, that you will be withdrawing your child from the preschool, you will receive a 25% refund of the first tuition payment. Beginning August 1, 2020, no refund is available.

Monthly tuition payments are due a month in advance. During the school year, you must notify the preschool director of your intent to withdraw your child by the tenth of the preceding month. If you notify the preschool director after that date, you will be liable for payment of the next month's tuition. Exceptions to this policy will be made for active duty U.S. military personnel and others on government orders.

Agudas Achim Preschool Monthly Tuition Rates 2020-2021

2 year-olds GAN CHAVERIM (core morning program) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

| | 2 days Tues and Thurs | 3 days Mon, Wed, and Fri | 5 days Mon – Fri |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Members of AAC | 369.00 | 513.00 | 786.00 |
| Non-members | 430.00 | 621.00 | 945.00 |

3 year-olds GAN CHAVERIM (core morning program) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

| | 4 days Tues – Fri | 5 days Mon – Fri |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Members of AAC | 652.00 | 786.00 |
| Non-members | 781.00 | 945.00 |

4 year-olds GAN CHAVERIM (core morning program) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

| | 5 days Mon – Fri |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Members of AAC | 786.00 |
| Non-members | 945.00 |

SHA'AT MISCHAK (optional afternoon program) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

| | 1 day | 2 days | 3 days | 4 days | 5 days |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Members of AAC | 114.00 | 213.00 | 302.00 | 390.00 | 447.00 |
| Non-members | 140.00 | 260.00 | 374.00 | 484.00 | 546.00 |

BOKER TOV (optional early drop-off) 7:30 am – 9:00 am

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|------------------|
| 180.00 per month |
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EREV TOV (optional late pick-up) 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, Monday – Thursday ONLY

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| 144.00 per month |
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Sibling Discount: If you are registering two or more children, each additional child is eligible for a 10% discount of the total tuition. The discount applies to the tuition(s) of equal or lesser amount(s) than the highest paid.

Agudas Achim Preschool 2020 – 2021 Application Form

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Child's Name | | | | | |
| Birth Date | | Female <input type="checkbox"/> | Male <input type="checkbox"/> | Did sibling attend preschool? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Parents' Names | | | | | |
| Home Street Address | | | | | |
| City | | State | | Zip Code | |
| Primary Phone | | | Secondary Phone | | |
| Primary Email | | | Secondary Email | | |
| Currently a member of Agudas Achim? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | | Interested in membership? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

I want to enroll my child in *Gan Chaverim* (core morning program, 9 am – 1 pm)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 day 2 year-olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 day 2 year-olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 day 2 year-olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 day 3 year-olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 day 3 year-olds | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 day 4 year-olds | | |

I want to enroll my child in *Sha'at Mischak* (optional afternoon program, 1 pm – 4 pm)

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | <input type="checkbox"/> Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

I want to enroll my child in *Boker Tov* (optional early drop-off, 7:30 am – 9:00 am)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> YES |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

I want to enroll my child in *Erev Tov* (optional late pick-up, 4 pm – 5:30 pm)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> YES |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

Priority registration for members of Agudas Achim Congregation and families with currently enrolled students begins December 2, 2019.

General registration begins January 6, 2020 at 8:00 am. New families must submit this form in person. Acceptance into the program is first-come, first-served.

Families of new students must return this form along with a \$75 check payable to *Agudas Achim Preschool*. This is a one-time only, non-refundable fee.

Agudas Achim Preschool 2020-2021 DRAFT CALENDAR

September 2020

| | | |
|----------|------|---|
| Friday | 9/4 | Open House for Children and Families (10:00 am – 12:00 pm) |
| Monday | 9/7 | Labor Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday | 9/8 | First Day of School! |
| Friday | 9/18 | <i>Erev Rosh HaShanah</i> – School Closes at 1:00 PM |
| Thursday | 9/24 | Back-to-School-Night 7:00 – 8:30 pm |
| Monday | 9/28 | <i>Yom Kippur</i> – School Closed |

October 2020

| | | |
|----------|-------|---|
| Friday | 10/2 | <i>Erev Sukkot</i> – School Closes at 1:00 PM |
| Friday | 10/9 | <i>Erev Shimini Atzeret</i> – School Closes at 1:00 PM |
| Monday | 10/12 | Columbus Day – School Closed |
| Thursday | 10/15 | One Big Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm |

November 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| Tuesday | 11/3 | Professional Day for Teachers – School Closed |
| Friday | 11/6 | Preschool <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner (5:15 – 6:30 pm) |
| Wednesday | 11/11 | Veterans Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday | 11/24 | Thanksgiving Community Feast – FAMILIES INVITED TO ATTEND |
| Wednesday – Friday | 11/25 – 11/27 | Thanksgiving Break – School Closed |

December 2020

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|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Tuesday | 12/8 | Priority Registration begins for families returning in 2021-2022 |
| Tuesday | 12/8 | Open House for prospective families (7:00 – 8:30 pm) |
| Wednesday | 12/9 | Open House for prospective families (10:00 – 11:30 am) |
| Thursday | 12/10 | Professional Day for Teachers – School Closed |
| Monday – Friday | 12/21 – 1/1 | Winter Break – School Closed |

January 2021

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|---------|------|---|
| Monday | 1/4 | School Resumes |
| Tuesday | 1/5 | General Registration begins for new families in 2021 – 2022 |
| Monday | 1/18 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday | 1/26 | Pajama Day – Families Welcome to Attend |

February 2021

| | | |
|--------|------|--|
| Monday | 2/15 | Presidents Day – School Closed |
| Friday | 2/26 | <i>Purim Parade/Purimspiel</i> – FAMILIES INVITED TO ATTEND |

March 2021

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Friday | 3/5 | Professional Day for Teachers – School Closed |
| Thursday | 3/18 | Storybook Day – Families Welcome to Attend |
| Friday – Friday | 4/2 – 4/9 | <i>Pesach/Spring Break</i> – School Closed |

April 2021

| | | |
|----------|------|---|
| Thursday | 4/15 | <i>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</i> Celebration – Families Welcome to Attend |
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May 2021

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|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Monday – Tuesday | 5/17 – 5/18 | <i>Shavuot</i> – School Closed |
| Friday | 5/21 | Preschool <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner (5:15 – 6:30 pm) |
| Monday | 5/31 | Memorial Day – School Closed |

June 2021

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|-----------|------|---|
| Thursday | 6/3 | Beach Day |
| Wednesday | 6/23 | Last Day of School! – School Closes at 1:00 pm |

August 2021

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|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday – Monday | 8/22 – 8/23 | Parent Volunteer Days |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|