

# YIDDISHE OTZROS

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Dear Parents, שיחיו

We hope that you are enjoying a healthy and pleasant summer, and are eagerly awaiting the upcoming school year of 5777 - 5778.

We take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting us to care and nurture what is most precious to you- your child.

Our program at Yiddishe Otzros, is a blend of the highest educational standards outlined to us in Torah. Based on the most famous adage of "chanoch La'nar Al Pi Darko" – develop the child according to his own developmental stage, we adopted a motto which explains our instructional strategy. "Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand." We will not merely tell your child, or show your child. We will involve your child in every aspect of his/her education. This is why you will not see us merely telling your child about the honey, the shofar, the Aleph Bais letter or a story. Rather, you will see your child exploring how bees make honey and creating conceptual connections with sweetness and Rosh Hashana. They will feel a variety of horns, create their own shofros, and study sounds as a way to make connections with the concept of Teshuva. In this manner, your child will be actively engaged in Parsha, Yomim Tovim and Aleph Bais activities. Together with a solid team of professional educators, we strive to provide your child with a well balanced curriculum, one that will empower your child with the necessary skills and faculties he/she needs to truly internalize Torah concepts and Mitzvos, realistically commit to Ahavas Yisroel and moral values.

None of this is possible without your support and connection to us. We hope to establish with you a solid home-school connection so that your child's learning can be leveraged to its fullest. In the parents handbook you will see our Educational Strategy. We trust that this information will help you develop an understanding of our approach in nurturing your child to grow as a genuine Bas/Ben Yisroel.

Respectfully yours,

Tzippy Vigler

All of the following information can also be viewed and downloaded on our website at [mayanyisroel.net/yiddisheetzros](http://mayanyisroel.net/yiddisheetzros)

### **This Package Includes Information On:**

Health Forms  
 Tuition Information  
 Emergency Contact Numbers (please keep current)  
 Family Information  
 Doctor and Medical Coverage Information  
 School Calendar  
 Parent Handbook

### **Some Basic Information:**

The cost of tuition for the year is \$5,555 in addition to the registration fee of \$200.

Tuition is payable over 10 months at \$555 each. Checks should begin Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and End May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Postdated checks are required so that all goes smoothly and is recorded properly.

There will be between 12 -15 children in the group- which will have a ration of 1 adult for 6 children - an excellent ratio for our dear little ones.

Please dress your child appropriately for work in school. Keep in mind; clothing can get dirty, shoes should be secure on your child's feet. Please no crocs or slippers.

### **Orientation:**

We will have two times; once to get familiar with each other at child's home and a second time to come in to the class. Each parent will be given a time slot to come to school with your child and see your child's new school. Please contact Tzippy at [tvigler@yahoo.com](mailto:tvigler@yahoo.com) or text 718.781.3864 for appointments for both home visits and school orientation. (Please check school calendar.)

### **Please Bring to Orientation:**

1. **Change of Clothes** - A zip lock bag with labeled full change of clothing.
2. **Communication notebook:** A labeled composition notebook to record this wonderful year of growth. This notebook is a great tool to use for both parents and teachers. You can record all developments and concerns.
3. **A labeled backpack** – a communication and development record tool which will go back and forth daily.
4. **Completed health forms** – if you haven't sent it in yet. (well visit must be dated after July 1<sup>st</sup>)
5. **Nine post-dated checks** made out to Yiddishe Otzros.
6. **Box of tissues.**
7. **Wipes**- also for those who are toilet trained.
8. **Labeled blanket / sheet / pacifier** etc. for nap time.
9. **2 happy pictures of him/herself.**

10. **\$50** to help in covering photo developing costs.
11. A **Plant** to help enhance our classroom environment.

For not yet trained children, we will be asking 2 parents to supply size **5 diapers on a weekly basis**. You will be notified when your turn is scheduled.

**Please feel free to call and discuss.**

### **Parent's Handbook of School Policies**

**Our Educational Strategy:** Our curriculum is a combination of skills and knowledge aimed at developing your child in a holistic fashion, where his/her social, emotional, spiritual, cognitive and physical needs are addressed.

**Nurturing atmosphere where your child will blossom:** Our classes are conducted in a warm environment that fosters learning and creative expression. In our program, your child will learn through play and exploration with an extensive variety of early childhood toys and materials. This gives the children the hands-on experience they will need to expand their minds and develop their motor skills.

**Engaging curriculum so that your child will love learning.** Our curriculum is built on the SPICES approach to education. That is, we address the children's Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual development. We provide the social setting to promote healthy self esteem, a sense of responsibility to the group, sensitivity to the needs of others and continued growth in social skill development. The curriculum incorporates the development of fundamental skills, including: math and literacy readiness, following directions, visual memory, dramatic play, problem-solving, and self-help skills. Exploration is encouraged and a sense of wonder is cultivated. In addition to the general studies program, our school also focuses on the Yid in the Yiddishe child. Through oodles of songs, oral stories and picture books, crafts and hands-on activities, Yiddishkeit comes alive. In our school, Yiddishkeit is a hands-on experience with lots of dramatic play; model seder, sukkah making, shofar display, making delicious challah for shabbos and more.

We are dedicated to making learning a joyful and meaningful experience.

Why Chinuch al pi darko? In his work *Chorev*, Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsh says the true meaning of Chinuch al pi darko is, "Equip and train your child according to the requirements of his future path in life." Equipping (Chinuch)—bring the child to acquire skills—academic skills, concentration, order, independence, coordination, problem-solving, creativity to be successful for life. Training (Hadracha)—guiding a child to understand the basic principles of her own self—so that she will be able to shape her own behaviors and the environment around her one

day, but doing so from a very young age, so that over the years her circle of independence widens with maturity.

But successful Chinuch and Hadracha does not look the same for every child. Every seasoned teacher who looks out into a room of 20-25 children realizes that reaching every one of them to their potential—meaning potential in academic skills, but even more so in social and emotional skills—requires 20-25 paths and paces to get there. It sounds impossible. It sounds expensive. It sounds like it would only work with the best teachers in the well-endowed schools. Not so. The Jewish people, have had the answer to this problem all along. Begin with understanding the child—then the method will come. "Chinuch al pi darko."

### **Jewish Montessori—a great Method for "Chinuch Al Pi Darko"**

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator, developed a method of teaching based on her scientific observations of young children's behavior. Her first "Children's House" was established in Rome in 1907. She found children learned best in a homelike environment filled with developmentally appropriate materials that provide experiences, which contribute to the growth of self-motivated, independent learners.

Dr. Montessori carried her message across the globe, including the United States in 1912. Dr. Nancy Rambusch established the American Montessori Society in 1960. Montessori education in the United States appeals to those who embrace it because of its outcomes for students. The American parents who originally chose Montessori education matched their views of child rearing. They saw their children as moral beings, which over time would become the socially responsible people Montessori had envisioned. And they saw their children becoming confident, competent learners.

The outcomes we aspire to teach are lifelong developments. For today's Yidden, an educational system that truly gives a child the life-long tools to shape his own behavior (conquer his animal soul) to do the will of his Creator, that it is THEIR GENERATION that holds the keys to the Geula by revealing the shleimus in their Dirah B'Tachtonim.

### **Communication between Parents and School**

**Communication:** Open communication between the school's director, teachers and parents is an integral component of Yiddische Otzros.

During the orientation process, please give the teacher your impressions of your child: personality, likes, dislikes, pertinent health information, etc. During the school year, please communicate to the school any changes in your child's attitude towards school. We will send home weekly newsletters to share with you what your child has been doing in class. Additionally, important notices regarding

scheduling matters and upcoming events are sent home in your child's backpack. Please take a moment each day to check your child's backpack. A communication notebook is also used to communicate and share in the precious growth of your dear child. Teachers will write in a bi-monthly observation. There are lunch, sleep/ rest charts – to be checked daily. **Please use it.** It can be used; to document progress of child – as a good memory log, or in asking questions and sending information.

**Changes in Child's Home Environment:** It is important that the teacher know of any changes taking place in your child's environment. The birth of a baby, parents on vacation, change of babysitter or family crisis can affect your child's behavior in school. The more informed we are, the more we can do to offer extra support and understanding to your child during unusually stressful times.

**Parent-Teacher Conference:** There will be a Parent-Teacher Conference around Chanukah time.

Both mothers and fathers are encouraged to attend as it is an opportunity to discuss the uniqueness of your child and receive an in-depth view of your child's progress.

**Contacting Teachers:** When you feel the need to talk to your child's teacher, please do not hesitate, jot down a note in the notebook of the best time you can be reached to talk.

Tzippy Vigler, the director, is also always available to speak with you.

## Health and Safety

### **Medical Forms:**

Your child's health is a matter of major importance to us.

No child will be permitted to begin school without a completed, current (dated **after** July 1, 2017) - Health medical record signed by a physician.

If you do not wish to vaccinate your child, just write us a letter to that effect, signed by yourself.

In addition, no child will be permitted to start school without a signed consent form allowing the director to make any decisions pertaining to the emergency care of your child in your absence.

### **Illness at School:**

If symptoms of illness appear during the day, your child will be immediately isolated from his or her classmates and you will be contacted to pick up your child.

"What are the steps we are taking related to the a flu virus? The CDC is reporting that in the next two years 30% of American school children will have a case of the virus. However, most cases will be mild. Our school is working on steps that will limit the spread of the flu. Our staff is discussing the ABCs of flu which include: A. Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes with your hands. B. Be sure to wash hands very often. C. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your

arm or a tissue. D. Don't go to school if you're ill. Parents, the best defense against illness is hand washing. Please wash your child's hands upon entering home or school. We will increase hand washing as a supplementary precaution use our new hand sanitizers. We are also constantly reading the CDC updates and the DHEC updates." It is already mandatory for staff and students to wash their hands upon entering the building; we implemented this in response to some research that reported drastic reduction in sick related absences.

**Illness at Home:**

We count on you to recognize the symptoms of ill health. Please, do not bring your child to school if there is any indication of the following: fever, colds, vomiting, and any unusual discharge from the eyes or nose, skin rashes or open sores, fatigue or illness. Please note: Your child must be free of fever for at least 24 hours before returning to school. Children returning to school before 24 hours following a fever run the risk of infecting other children. Please have your child return to school with a letter from your physician stating that he/she can return.

**Medication:**

No one at school is allowed to administer medication to children.

**Head Lice:**

Please have your child's hair checked. All children will have their hair checked for lice or nits on a monthly basis.

Any child that is found with lice or nits in his or her hair will not be permitted to attend school until they are lice/nit free. Lice will be checked by a professional. She can be reached at 718-877-6026.

**Communicable Diseases:**

Please notify us immediately (within 24 hours) if your child or any member of your immediate family is diagnosed with a communicable or contagious illness, such as conjunctivitis, pinworms, chicken pox, food poisoning, flu and hepatitis.

We will then contact the other parents so that they may take any necessary precautions.

A child that was sick can return to school with a doctor's note stating the reason for the absence and ability to continue in school.

**Medical Emergency:**

In case of a medical emergency, Chas Veshalom, we will immediately attempt to contact you after calling Hatzolah.

If we cannot reach you, we will call your child's physician.

**Minor Injury:**

If your child receives a minor injury or bruise at school, appropriate first aid will be administered. You will be notified as soon as possible.

**Emergency Numbers:**

VERY IMPORTANT!! Please keep us up to date on phone numbers, cell, work numbers and emergency contacts.

**Liability Insurance:**

The school maintains a liability insurance policy, which may be examined upon request at the school office.

**Hot Weather:**

Send a labeled water bottle and apply sun screen on your child's skin. Mosquito bites should be monitored. Please have your child sprayed with 'Off' if necessary. You may send a bottle to school and the teacher can apply.

**Food and Birthdays****School Meals:**

The school provides breakfast and a hot nutritious lunch daily, as well as a mid-afternoon snack.

Please do not send any food or snack with your child.

We provide plenty of nutritious food and the children do not go hungry.

Sending snack from home creates jealousy among the children, and sharing snacks spreads germs.

**Special Diets:**

If your child has any special dietary needs, such as allergies, please consult with us.

**School Birthday Parties:**

Children love to celebrate their birthdays at school and we recommend that you make a party in class.

Birthday party day can be on the child's Hebrew birthday or on the closest day to the Hebrew birthday (but not Friday). We recommend small cupcakes (without sprinkles) and grape juice with a present appropriate to the child's age (like; bubbles, pencil, play dough, paper pad, crayons, stickers, books) and fresh fruit / please no candies.

Please insure that every food item is from a Jewish brand (cholov yisroel, pas yisroel and bishul yisroel).

Your child's teacher will add songs, and games to make this a special day for your child. We also recommend bringing pennies for each child to give Tzedakah during the party. Please let us know a week in advance to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We also encourage your child to bring a present for the class such as a book, cd, or puzzle. Please consult with your child's teacher what toy the class needs. You can also order from our class Wish List located on the wall in your child's classroom.

**Toys from Home:** Except for toys that are needed in the very opening days of school to help ease your child's transition from home to school, we ask that you leave your child's toys at home. If you have a book or music tape that may be of interest to all the children, please feel free to bring them to school. Thursday is Show and Tell day for



our class. Please encourage your child to send in one favorite item or an educational one.

Thursday is the only day when one toy can be presented to the class.

**Schedule:** Monday through Thursday school begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM. Friday schedule: 9:00-12:00. After Pesach school will finish at 12:30.

**Drop Off:** School begins at 9:00 AM. Parents must accompany their child to class. Please have your child walk (verses being carried) from the car to the door of the class.

Drop offs aren't easy for us little ones, so make it short and sweet!

There is a sign in and sign out log, please sign in and out daily.

We will have pick up from the car for the first twenty minutes of the day (from 8:55-9:15) - once the child is settled.

**Late Arrival:** We urge you to be prompt and arrive no later than 9:30. It is disruptive to the class and the teachers if you come late in the morning.

In addition, your child will adjust better if he or she begins the day together with the rest of the class.

#### **Dismissal Policy:**

At no time and under no circumstance will a child be released to a person not authorized by a parent to pick up that child.

If you plan on having your child picked up by someone other than a parent or the person listed on the child's information sheet you must notify us. For your convenience, a teacher will bring your child to the car from 2:50-3:00, after this time you will have to park and come in to pick up your child.

Please be on time, your child gets worried when waiting for his/her parent.

#### **Emergency School Cancellations and Closings:**

In the event that school needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, you will receive a phone call from the teacher informing you of the closing.

#### **Tzedakah and Mitzvah Notes**

**Tzedakah:** One of the most beautiful Mitzvahs that children develop in our school right from the start is a feeling for the Mitzvah of Tzedakah. Along with a variety of hands-on individual and collective activities and projects, children's sense of sharing and doing Chesed is reinforced by giving a penny every day.

Please send in a penny or other change with your child. It is advised that you use masking tape to tape it to your child's clothing or have child place it in his pocket.

**Mitzvah Notes:** For reinforcement of good behavior and connection between school and home, we encourage you to send daily mitzvah notes with your child.

**BEAUTIFUL JUNK:**

Please add to our creative program by collecting the following items and bringing them to school.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS:**

|                                   |                      |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| brown paper bags                  | leather              | burlap furs                |
| rolls- toilet paper & paper towel | plastic bags         | wallpaper                  |
| beads                             | magazines            | prints                     |
| eggshells                         | buttons              | corsages                   |
| flowers                           | macaroni             | string                     |
| cellophane                        | seeds                | zippers                    |
| chocolate paper                   | sequins              | milk & soda tops           |
| confetti                          | ribbons              | postcards & old cards      |
| doilies                           | felt                 | metallic paper             |
| egg cartons                       | crepe paper          | carpet                     |
| elastics                          | plastic pill bottles | sponges                    |
| feathers                          | silk                 | catalogues                 |
| fuzzy paper                       | spools               | material scraps            |
| lace, netting                     | tiles                | pinecones                  |
| milk cartons                      | sandpaper            | toothpicks                 |
| newspapers                        | upholstery samples   | pebbles                    |
| shells                            | tinfoil plates       | corrugated paper           |
| shiny gift-wrapping               | tissue paper         | tissue boxes               |
| wires                             | satin                | Styrofoam trays and blocks |
| yarn                              | wool                 | shirt cardboards           |

**SCIENCE:**

pinecones