

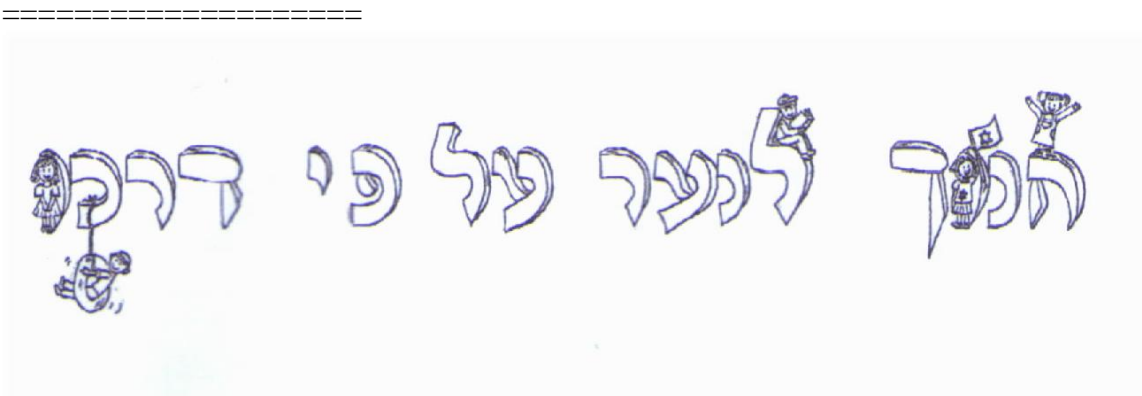
2 Harrison Street ♦ Edison, New Jersey 08817
Tel: (732) 572-5052 ♦ Fax: (732) 572-3049
www.RPRY.org

Early Childhood Parent Handbook

*Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva
Edison Campus*

*“Educate a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart
from it.”*

(Proverbs 22, Verse 6)



August 2010,

Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I would like to welcome and welcome back all of you to the Early Childhood program at RPRY. As a graduate of the school, I am very excited to continue and grow the early childhood program at RPRY. I have master's degrees in both education and social work and I have been working in the field of early childhood education for nearly ten years. Working with young children in a Jewish setting is my passion and life's fulfillment.

The early childhood program at RPRY has been growing for a long time. Being able to help formulate it into a cohesive part of the school is very exciting for me. I am a strong believer in play based learning. Children learn to negotiate the world around them by physically experiencing how the world works. Children learn math skills by playing with blocks. They gain science skills by mixing colors and creating new ones. Children learn about language and literacy by listening to books - by hearing rhymes and repetitions and by seeing that when letters are placed in a specific order they make words.

A yeshiva education does not end with the secular, however. The children at RPRY learn Torah, berachot, and midot - all lessons that they will carry through their years in RPRY and beyond. It is a love of Jewish learning coupled with the secular that helps to create the well rounded neshama that we are so proud of in our RPRY students.

My door is always open and I look forward to getting to know all of you in the weeks ahead.

Shana Tova

Stacey Rockman

General Information

Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva Pre-School.

The Pre-School includes the 2 year old program, Pre-Nursery, Nursery, and Primer (Kindergarten) classes. This handbook has been prepared in order to provide you with the necessary information to ensure a successful and enjoyable pre-school experience. We hope you will find this handbook helpful and informative.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and productive year,

The Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva (RPRY)
Pre-School Faculty

Introduction

For the 2010 – 2011 school year, all children will begin school with a full day. Therefore, please send your child with a dairy or parve lunch and snacks. If your child stays for rest time, please send a crib sheet and a small blanket.



Our Curriculum:

Our comprehensive and developmentally appropriate program is designed to promote each child's intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth. All games and activities are skill-based and goal oriented, so that the children grow with everything that they do. The curriculum at our school is based on age-appropriate accepted practice. The classroom is comprised of learning centers which include blocks, art, dramatic play, books, manipulatives and scientific discovery. These centers allow the children to have choices and to actively explore. They learn by interacting with their peers, teachers and the varying things in their environment. Each center has a specific aim and with the teacher's guidance, helps the children's emotional, cognitive and physical growth. The daily schedule is planned to include active and quiet times, gross and fine motor activities and child initiated as well as staff-initiated activities. Outdoor (weather permitting) or indoor play is scheduled each day.

Planning for the classroom involves consideration to age appropriateness for the group and individual aptness for each child. Being cognizant that every child learns differently, we use various mediums to teach each lesson. Children's interests are explored through inquiry and research methods. Assessment is also an important part of the curriculum. We endeavor to make sure that children reach their individual potential. We integrate an emergent curriculum to create a synthesis of programs; including the best guided and individualized educational opportunities.

Intellectual:

We encourage the children to develop self-motivation, active investigational skills through questioning, exploring and observing, and the thinking and problem solving abilities needed to thrive in a world of challenge and competition.

Children are surrounded with books, literacy experiences and exposure to the alphabet to prepare them for pre-reading and the reading that follows.

Social:

We encourage each child to work and play with others, to develop language communication skills, to respect the rights and privacy of their peers and most of all to develop feelings of kindness, courtesy, helpfulness and acceptance.

Physical:

Children are provided constant opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills, to develop finger strength and dexterity, and arm-eye and body coordination.

Emotional:

Children are encouraged to develop a positive self-concept, to understand the difference between right and wrong and to develop responsibility. They are encouraged to recognize that people are different and to be accepting of others and we help them learn and practice appropriate ways to respond to others and to express their feelings constructively.

Midot and Mitzvot

A love of Yiddishkeit and becoming a mench also comes with an education. We believe in early learning of tfilot and berchot as well as learning the chagim and ahavat yisrael. All of our educational goals are to create a well rounded Jewish education and child.



Behavior and Discipline

At RPRY, the children are taught how they *should* behave rather than being told what they cannot do. We emphasize the need to behave safely and we help our children to learn the difference between safe and unsafe behaviors. If a child acts in a manner that is unsafe to him/herself or others around them, they are asked to stop that behavior. Behaviors are identified without making the children feel they are “bad”. Conversations between the teacher and children are loving in tone and deed. Our teachers model appropriate classroom behavior so our children may emulate them.

The children are encouraged to follow the routines of the class. The teachers set limits for the children. We all make mistakes. Sometimes a child may need to sit close to the teacher or away from the other children if he or she is unable to interact with the other children in the classroom appropriately. The child is encouraged to tell the other children how he or she feels about a certain behavior, and the teacher also tells the child how he or she feels about the behavior. Children are encouraged to work out their differences verbally and independently. The teachers and director are available to speak with parents about their child’s behavior at school or at home. As children develop, they will learn the skills they need to interact positively with their teachers and peers.

Children do need to understand that there are consequences to their behavior whether it is negative behavior or positive behavior. The following policy was developed for those children who, for whatever reason, are unable to respond positively to the above discipline policy.

We will facilitate the development of self-control in children by treating each child with dignity, using techniques that:

- Set clear, consistent, fair limits
- Value mistakes as learning opportunities
- Redirect children to more appropriate behavior
- Listen to children discussing their feelings and frustrations.
- Guide children to solve their own conflicts.
- Patiently remind children of rules and their rationale as needed.



TOILET TRAINING

Children enrolled in the 2 year old program do not need to be toilet trained. We strongly encourage older children to toilet train. Please let us know when you have begun the toilet training process at home and what you are doing so that we may reinforce it at school. We are all partners in this process! Additionally, we have a toilet training guide if you would like some helpful hints on how to proceed.

Age requirements - Children entering RPRY Pre-School must be:

- 2 years old by December 31 for the 2 year old program
- 3 years old by December 31 for Pre-Nursery
- 4 years old by December 31 for Nursery
- 5 years old by December 31 for Primer

What Your Child Will Need



BOOK BAG/BACKPACK

Your child will need a backpack to bring home projects, newsletters, notes, etc. Please make sure the bag is big enough to hold these items. The small backpacks are very cute, but they don't hold a lot of "stuff".



CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Please send in a change of clothes for your child in a clearly labeled shoebox. This should include pants, shorts, shirt, socks, and underwear.

Smock

Tissue box

Disposable wipes

Crib sheet - 2 year olds, Pre-Nursery and Nursery full day children

Kippah and Tzitzit (for boys)



LUNCH

Please send in a lunch and a drink with your child each day. You may choose to get school lunches and milk/juice for an additional fee. ALL LUNCHES MUST BE NUT FREE DAIRY OR PARVE.



SNACK

Please send 2 nutritious snacks every day, such as cut up fruit or vegetables, pretzels, fruit cups, yogurt or applesauce. This should be something small and simple. Any utensils (disposable) your child may need should be included.



TZEDAKAH

Children should bring in a few coins each day, or many coins in a small container which will be kept in his/her cubby for the daily "Mitzvah of Tzedakah".



ARRIVAL

School officially begins at 7:50 a.m. Your child may arrive at school as early as 7:35 a.m. An “early stay” teacher supervises the children. Teachers will pick up their children from this room. You will be notified where the “early stay” classroom is located prior to the first day of school.



CURBSIDE DROPOFF

From 7:30-8:00 am daily there will be curbside drop off for EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTS ONLY. This is done on the side of the building in the fire lane which runs parallel to the playground. We ask that you do not get out of your car and let the teacher take your child into school. This will help the carpool line keep moving as well as a smooth and easy transition for your child. The fire lane is closed PROMPTLY at 8:00 am.

From 8:00-9:00 am there will be a teacher available for curbside drop-off in the back of the school on Edgemount Road. You may also park in the parking lot during this time if you wish to walk your child into school. Please do NOT park your car in the carpool lane if you are walking your child into school.



HALF DAY/FULL DAY

The 2 year old program, Pre-Nursery and Nursery classes offer the choice of full or half-day programs. Half-day hours are from 7:50 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Full day hours are from 7:50 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. We do offer a late stay program until 3:50 p.m. for those children who have older siblings in school and who need to be supervised until 3:50 p.m.

Please be advised that when you sign up for a half-day program, this will entitle your child to participate only in the programs that occur during his/her regular hours of the school day.



DISMISSAL

Primer children are escorted to the Beit Midrash or to the bus room at 3:25 p.m. The buses are boarded at approximately 3:50 p.m. All early childhood classes will be dismissed from their classrooms beginning at 3:25 p.m. daily. Late stay is available for children who are waiting for older siblings. They will be supervised in their classrooms by their teachers until 3:50 p.m. **Please arrive promptly.**

Dismissal takes place in the back of the school on Edgemount Road. As you pull up to the school in the “carpool lane”, your child will be called and sent out to your car. Nursery and Pre-Nursery children will be escorted to the cars. **PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR CAR AND REFRAIN FROM USING CELL PHONES WHILE LOADING AND MOVING IN THE CARPOOL LANES.**

For the safety of your child we require a written note to the teacher whenever there is a change in the daily dismissal procedure. If you pick up your child early please be sure to sign out in the “sign out” binder located in the main office. This avoids confusion at the end of the day if the school, teacher, or bus monitors are waiting for the student.

In case of last minute changes please notify the office. Our aim is to make sure your child is safe at all times.

Communication



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

At the beginning of the school year there will be a meeting to give you an opportunity to see your child's classroom and to speak to your child's teacher. In addition, you will get more detailed information about the curriculum and procedures that will help to ensure your child's success in school. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.



PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

A voice mail system has been set up for the purpose of communicating with teachers. Each teacher is assigned a mail box number. You will be notified of this number at the beginning of the school year. Please leave a message on the machine and every effort will be made to return your call as soon as possible. However, if the message needs immediate attention, please call the main office at 732-572-5052 X 202. This system has been implemented in order to give both the teacher and parent the proper time and place to speak with one another. In addition, each teacher has an RPRY email address that you may wish to use for communication. The address is the first letter of the teacher's first name and their full last name @rpry.org (for example srockman@rpry.org).



SCHOOL/PARENT COMMUNICATION

This year we will be "going green." Newsletters and notices will be sent via email. Notices that affect your child's schedule will also be sent in the backpack. Please be sure to check your child's backpack as well as your email regularly so that you may keep abreast of what is happening.

Each week the school sends home a newsletter via email which includes important information about the school and community. In addition, each teacher sends home a newsletter to update you on a weekly basis of the progress and happenings in each class.

Please check and empty backpacks daily!

Please let us know if there are any important changes in your child's life. (i.e. sibling's birth, moving to a new home, illness, parents' travel etc.)

Early Dismissal



EARLY FRIDAY DISMISSAL

Early Friday dismissal for the 2010-2011 school year begins Friday October 22, 2010. Late Friday dismissals resume March 18, 2011. Third grade and under will be dismissed at 1:40 p.m. Please arrive at carpool pick up at this time if you do not have to wait for older siblings. Upper school children are dismissed at 1:55 p.m.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

DAYS

Twice during the year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring, there are 2 designated half days for Parent/Teacher conferences. Please check school calendar for dates and times.

After Care Programs



- 1) After Care - R.P.R.Y. provides a nurturing After Care program. This program is available for extended childcare until 6:00 p.m. There is an additional fee for this service.
- 2) After School Programs - RPRY offers a wide variety of after school programs such as: piano, soccer, karate, ballet, art, cooking etc. Classes are available for an additional fee. Please watch for the brochure.
- 3) Break Time - For an additional fee, supervision and programming are available on certain non-school days and half days throughout the year. Please watch for flyers.
Contact the RPRY office for information (732) 572-5052 X216.

Inclement Weather



Delayed opening - For announcements regarding school closings, please call the R.P.R.Y. hot line at (732) 572-5052 X175 or listen to WCTC 1450 AM for school updates on closings and delayed openings.

School will begin at 9:45 if there is a “delayed opening”.

Early dismissal - In the case of inclement weather, call the school hot line at (732) 572-5052 X175, not the school office for the latest information.

Health Procedures



If your child comes to school not feeling well, he/she will be more vulnerable to infection. It is in the best interest of your child and of the other people in school to keep your child at home. A child needs to be well in order to participate actively in the school program.

After a fever, a child's temperature must be normal (98.6) for 24 hours before he/she returns to school.

Often children may ask to come to school even though they are ill. Although your child may be disappointed, please keep him/her at home if he/she is sick.

If a child becomes ill while at school, for their well being, please cooperate by having your child picked up promptly. Make sure your child's emergency form has local numbers, in case you are not available. Also, please do not forget to update your local and work emergency numbers with the office should they change throughout the year.

If you need to speak to the school nurse, the "Clinic" extension can be reached at

(732) 572-5052 X 217

The school nurse must dispense all medications. All medications must be in the original labeled container. Please send in the following information with a signed note should your child need to be given medication during the school day:

- 1) Child's name
- 2) Name of medication
- 3) Dosage
- 4) Time of dispensation

In addition, a prescription from your child's doctor **MUST** be included.

No child will be allowed to attend school without a completed current medical form. This includes a recent examination by a pediatrician and records of immunization etc. This is New Jersey State law.

Head Lice - is an annoying but medically insignificant problem that may be found in even the cleanest homes and schools. Any child found to have head lice in any form will be sent home. At the recommendation of the Board of Health and State of New Jersey, if a child has nits even after treatment they may not be admitted to school until all nits are removed. The school nurse must examine the child before returning to class. Students will be checked throughout the year for head lice.

Bits and Pieces



FOOD/SNACKS

The Early Childhood Program is now NUT FREE. Please check all ingredients for a list of peanuts and tree nuts. Nut allergies can be life threatening to children with these allergies.

When you send snacks/food from home, please make sure they have the appropriate kashrut symbol of OU, Circle K, Kaf K, or Star K. On days when meat lunches are served, please remember to send in parve snacks. We encourage healthy and nutritious eating in school. Please help us out by sending healthy and nutritious food to school with your child. Some examples of healthy snacks for Shabbat and other parties include – popcorn, pretzels, fruit, and vegetables.



ROSH CHODESH

Each month when Rosh Chodesh falls out during the school week, the entire pre-school gets together for a special assembly. We all wear special Rosh Chodesh T-shirts that are available for purchase from the office for \$10.00. Ice cream for a Rosh Chodesh treat can be ordered with the lunch/milk and juice forms that come in the summer forms packet. Ice cream is delivered to school on Rosh Chodesh.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Please arrange any in-class birthday parties with your child's teacher. Please do not send soda. Apple juice is always available.



SHABBAT PARTIES

Weekly Shabbat parties take place in each class. Primer Shabbat parties take place in the Hebrew classes. Each week a different child will be chosen to be the Shabbat Abba and Shabbat Ima. Parents will be notified in advance to send in a Shabbat "treat". Please make sure to adhere to the kashrut restrictions and make sure to send in enough for your child's class. Snacks should be in original sealed packaging. Please refrain from sending in any "junk food" or candy, for a Shabbat treat. We suggest cut up fruit, applesauce, veggies and dips and the like.



PERFORMANCES

At various times throughout the year, parents are invited to attend class performances/programs. Advance notification is always provided giving ample time to arrange your schedule accordingly. Please make sure your child has an adult in the audience.



CLASS FUND

Each class collects money at the beginning of the year which will be used for trips and special programs throughout the year. At back to school night your child's teacher will specify the amount.



DRESS CODE

The RPRY Pre-School does not have a specific dress code. Please send your child in play clothes as arts and crafts are done daily. We strongly suggest that your child wear comfortable clothing that allows your child to use the bathroom easily as well as play freely. Overalls are discouraged. Closed shoes are recommended, (Sneakers should be worn for gym).