



Gani Preschool of the Arts

2025-2026

Parent Handbook

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GANI

Preschool of the Arts



<http://www.chabadissaquah.com/Gani>

Introduction And Welcome

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Chabad's Jewish Preschool!

Serving the educational needs of infants and of children 18 months to 5 years, we look forward to opening new worlds for your child in fun and stimulating ways. I am pleased that you have chosen our school as a home away from home for your child. Here at "Gani" Preschool of The Arts, we are committed to creating a warm, friendly and happy environment for your child, while assisting your child in developing a strong positive awareness of his/her Jewish identity. Aside from Judaic themes and holidays, the curriculum at Chabad Preschool will expose the children to a wide range of experiences including art, movement, pre-writing & reading skills, and early math skills, which will all be integrated into our hands-on learning centers. Chabad's Gani Preschool is committed to excellence.

When you bring your child to our school, you will find caring teachers to greet them, who above all will shower your children with love and affection. We offer a creative Jewish learning atmosphere where your child's individual style of learning will be valued and nurtured. We will encourage your child to explore the world, learn to be part of a group, and solve problems in a constructive manner. Learning at our school is self-rewarding, joyous, and non-competitive.

I have prepared this handbook to walk you through our policies and to assure you that your child is in good hands. To help your child get ready for preschool, please take the time to carefully read this handbook, which contains updated and pertinent information, as well as a school calendar and other addendums. As this booklet has information and answers to parents' most common questions, you may want to keep it handy and refer to it as needed.

Nothing, of course, takes the place of direct contact between you, the rest of the school staff, and me. I invite you to call me at the school to discuss any questions or uncertainties regarding your child's preschool education whenever you feel it necessary.

I look forward to a fully cooperative relationship and a very successful school year.

Sincerely Yours,
Nechama Farkash
Program Director and Site
Supervisor

Gani Preschool's Mission Statement

- To educate your child in a creative, supportive, and warm Jewish environment, so that your child will not only learn about life as a Jew but will learn to love it too!
- To nourish and stimulate your child's learning priorities, as we develop their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills, so that your child will be a well-rounded and self-confident individual.

Gani Preschool's Philosophy

Gani Preschool of the Arts is a place where young children receive a warm and enriching preschool experience providing them with the foundation to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Our goal is to create a preschool environment that integrates the history and traditions of Judaism with a broad spectrum of secular topics. Gani teachers promote the values of respect and responsibility in a positive and encouraging manner. Children who attend our preschool develop into proud and productive Americans knowledgeable and aware of the richness found in their Jewish heritage. Through developmentally appropriate activities, children gain the opportunity to learn and perfect newly acquired skills. Our teachers recognize that children learn best when they experience the world firsthand utilizing all of their senses to participate in learning. At Gani Preschool of the Arts children are encouraged to create, explore, and discover in the safety of our nurturing environment.

Reaching Our Educational Goals

Incorporating learning centers into our classroom provides an environment of choice and opportunity. In every Gani classroom, there are art, science, blocks, holiday, dramatic play, writing, and math/manipulative learning centers. Additionally, the cozy corner provides an area dedicated to books and quiet, individual time. All learning centers are amply stocked with fun, educational material. Varied to reflect classroom themes presently being explored, learning center materials challenge the children's development and interests. Integrating every learning style into the Gani curriculum provides each child with the tools they need to succeed. Creative movement, music, and drama enrich the classroom. Through these and other activities, the children learn, develop and grow. Special visitors to our classroom, including doctors, musicians, and artists, and an exciting schedule of field trips give the children special access to the world around them. Exposing children to a rich and meaningful Jewish heritage gives them a deep appreciation of their history. Hebrew language and alphabet instruction combined with song and dance, Torah stories, Jewish holidays, and traditions make for the most opportune learning experience. Weekly newsletters encourage family involvement. Offering information on current classroom learning themes as well as important announcements, Gani Preschool of the Arts newsletters are vital to good parent-teacher communication. Working together, we can maximize every child's learning potential. As the year progresses in the Gani Preschool learning arena, children are given the opportunity to develop and reach their educational goals. In order to achieve above goals, consistent and regular attendance is a must.

Our Staff

Our staff is made up of teachers, all of whom are chosen for their professionalism, as well as, their caring and compassionate personalities. Our teachers delight in unlocking your child's natural curiosity by providing the stimulation necessary for an experiential learning process. All staff participates in annual in-service training in order to remain abreast with the latest trends in early childhood education. All our staff has a degree, or are working towards a degree in the field of early childhood education.

Curriculum and Lesson Plans

Teachers utilize the Washington School Readiness Performance Standards to prepare weekly lesson plans that include age-appropriate activities that encourage and support children's Physical Health, Social & Emotional Skills, Language and Communication Skills, and Cognitive Development. A number of skills are developed when children are "playing" in Learning Centers. Judaic themes and holidays are also incorporated daily. A weekly lesson plan is posted in each classroom.

Non-discrimination / Inclusion Policy

Chabad Jewish preschool values and supports the rights of all children, regardless of ethnicity, religion, national origin, and diverse abilities.

Our Programs

Toddler Program

2-3 years old

Garinim room

(your child has to be 18 months by August 31st 2025)

The Toddler Program strives to help the child develop in the following areas:

spoken language, movement, self-confidence, independence, and basic Jewish values and holiday observances. A lovely classroom environment with a blend of sensorial and motor exploration provides numerous enjoyable experiences for the toddlers. At group activities, such as singing, story time and snack, the young child experiences the joy of belonging to a larger community. Staff-student ratio for the toddler class is 1:6.

Preschool Program

4-5 years old

Shorashim room

(Your child has to be 3 by August 31st, 2025)

The Preschool Program includes: Judaica, pre-math skills, reading readiness, dramatic play, sensorial exploration, art, and music. Our rich and meaningful program provides a healthy mix of structured time and free play to encourage proper growth in cognitive, physical, and social areas. In our multi-age program, we provide both stimulation and challenge and are supportive of each child's own learning priorities. The staff-student ratio for the preschool class is 1:8.

Our Programs

Infant Program

2-18 months months

Our infant program has primary teachers who center their day on the needs of those children. While meeting basic needs of food, diapering, and adequate rest, the teachers go far beyond that. Our staff are keen observers who plan and enhance the interaction and activities that your infant's behavior is identifying.

Routines are the curriculum for your child's day. Every moment of a young child's day offers opportunities for learning. Our teachers catch these moments and helps each baby establish trust, discovery, and feel good about him/herself. In addition, your child's teacher helps your child to tackle motor skills, realize the power of language, and begin to understand this new world from many angles. This task is accomplished as our staff key into the verbal and nonverbal messages that your child is sending.

Each of our caregivers understands that infants developmentally need to explore the world through touch and feel. This is viewed as a valuable learning experience. As our staff looks at the environment, she/he views it from the child's perspective and creates an inviting and stimulating place for the child.

Infants need to view the world from many angles. This includes crawling, being carried, stroller rides, climbing, and rocking so that various perspectives are gained. Diaper changing, feeding, and other routines are viewed as times for communication, self-discovery, and socializing. They are encouraged to master feeding despite the messiness that accompanies the activity. Parents are the best resource in deciding the child's needs and you will work closely with their primary teachers to make the best decisions for your child's development.

Learning Centers

Your child will have a choice of activities in which to participate each day. Creative art, science, early math, family living, building, fine motor,

building blocks, and water play are samples of the centers that are available for your child. Because we believe that play is a child's greatest learning experience, our approach allows children to choose the skills they wish to develop. As the art center is popular among the children, we wish to convey an important aspect of our philosophy. We do not do the work for the children. You will need to accept your child's artwork as he or she did it. The work will not be teacher fixed. In this way, children are able to work freely and develop personal pride in their works of art.

Our Unique Programming

I) Morning circle:

This is a time when we all come together to start our day. We do songs, and movement activities to foster body awareness, self-regulation, and listening skills; also Tefilah (morning prayers), and calendar. This small part of our day is a time in which we work on being part of a large group.

2) Tzedakah time 🎉

Tzedakah (righteous giving) is a daily occurrence at “Gani”. We will have a classroom container decorated by the kids and during Tefilah the children are encouraged to “open their hearts” and take out a few of their coins to give Tzedakah. Pennies, nickels, dimes, or a combination of loose coins should be brought in at the beginning of the school year.

The amounts are less important than establishing the concept of helping others and sharing what they have.

3) The Celebration of Shabbat: 🕯️

To celebrate the coming of the Shabbat, each Friday a special Shabbat atmosphere is created. Several Hebrew songs and Shabbat movement songs bring a special energy into the class. As for the celebration of Shabbat, candles are lit, and we recite the blessings for the Kiddush grape juice and Challah. Every week a different boy and girl will be chosen to be the Ima (mommy) and Abba (daddy). The Shabbat celebration concludes with lunch and a special Shabbat story.

4) Challah on Friday:

As we educate and excite our students about Shabbat, the children have the opportunity to make a Challah for the family. Of course, it takes practice and skill to braid the Challah. However, each child has a sense of self-pride when sharing their own Challah with their family. 🥯

5) Jewish Holiday Family Celebrations:

Prior to each Jewish holiday parents and extended family are encouraged to join our school for a fun-filled holiday experience, which includes a holiday presentation by the children, as well as an array of hands-on activities which will create memorable moments that you share during this quality time with your child.

6) Practical Life:

The purpose of practical life exercises is to encourage conscious, orderly, controlled and functional knowledge out of the mass happenings in the real world. The practical life exercises help a child break down jobs at hand into easily manageable components. They all require real tools: silverware, wood, glass etc- all items that reflect and typify an actual home environment. In this way, they provide the child a chance to learn what practical living is, and how to manage it. The main areas in the practical life exercises involve Grace and Courtesy, Care of Person, Care of the Indoor Environment, and Art.

7) Derech Eretz: Grace and Courtesy

Lessons in the language of respect (Derech Eretz) and lessons in control and coordination of movement are taught and practiced throughout the day for the children at Gani. Here are a few grace and courtesy lessons examples that are implemented very strongly in September, at the beginning of each school year, and extended throughout the school year and into summer school as well.

- Saying please and than you
 - Saying excuse, me
- Politely blowing one's nose
- Politely covering one's mouth in a yawn or cough using the forearm
 - Apologizing when appropriate, assuming responsibility

8) Sensorial:

Sensory play activities stimulate your child's senses which supports their brain and language development, gross motor skills, social interaction and problem-solving skills. With sensory play, there's always much more going on than meets the eye. We offer a Sensory rich environment with a variety of material and experiences, those can be stand alone activities and are incorporated as well in every day learning of all



9) Language Arts:

Gani children typically do not remember learning to read, as the environment is designed so that all experiences feed naturally toward the development of skills required for reading. Therefore, although reading, writing, spelling, and grammar are introduced to the child in an organized phonetic method, the presentation allows the child to acquire reading skills without realizing the effort.



10) Hebrew Language:

Aleph Bet is always taught in order as opposed to English letters which are taught by most common sounds. After a child has mastered several

letters the teacher will then begin introducing one vowel at a time beginning with Kamatz then Patach etc. Once a child has shown fluency in blending letters with vowels the teacher will introduce the blending of two letters then three etc with different vowels. Children will have both Montessori materials and traditional materials to work with. The formal introduction to reading will happen for all children in their Kindergarten year, all other children in the primary room, depending on their level will be introduced and encouraged to use the Hebrew language materials. For those children who exhibit reading skills earlier, the teacher will provide materials to keep that child progressing.

II) Mathematics: 123

Math is the study of numbers, quantities, shapes, and measurements and how they relate to one another. At Gani the children are introduced to the concrete sensorial impressions of numbers, the decimal system and its functions, addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Using manipulative materials, the child explores these concepts physically, creating a basis for more abstract operations.

I2) Geography:

Geography is the study of the earth including its people, resources, climate, and physical features. Teaching Geography aids the child in developing a clear sense of spatial orientation. By giving sensorial impressions of the earth and showing children their relationship to it, Gani lessons help develop a foundation of global awareness. Geography is a wonderful tool to introduce to children the different lands and waters Hashem created. Older children love working with these materials as they are both beautiful and complex. They begin to learn about Jewish culture and holy places all around the world.

I3) Botany:

Exploring the subject of Botany helps a child develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the life cycle and the beauty of Hashem's creatures. Through specific Botany works, the child develops a greater knowledge and understanding of the virtue of patience as the child is exposed to nature's seasonal changes and the growth cycle.

These lessons occur in our outdoor classrooms.

As the child builds success upon success with small tasks, he/she is able to go on to greater ones, mastering his/her small environment.

Parent Involvement & Open Communication

Open communication between parents and teachers is essential. Your child will benefit tremendously from this communication. Avenues for communication and parent involvement are provided in the following manner:

- 1) The “Peek of the Week” newsletter will acquaint you with what is being taught in class. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of reading each Friday’s “Peek of the Week.” This is our way of informing you of special classroom activities. A Weekly message from the Director will include pertinent information about school events and administrative updates.
- 2) Take the time to greet and talk with your child’s teacher. If you would like to have more than the normal short chat, please feel free to set up a suitable time to talk when the teacher can give you her undivided attention.
- 3) All communication is done via Brightwheel. Please take the time to check the calendar, messages, and daily feed on your child's profile regularly to keep informed of upcoming happenings or announcements. In addition, weekly lesson plans are posted for your review.
- 4) Parental involvement increases the success of our preschool. If you have a talent, skill, or occupation that would interest preschoolers, please let us know. Our Gani PTO would love to include you
- 5) Parents are our partners in education. If you would like to participate in our PTO please let us know

Heart Centered Parenting

At Gani we believe in fostering a Mindful Community of Parents, thus we will host four Heart Center Parenting classes during the year (a separate message with save the date will be sent). Gani parents commit to attending at least three classes

Conferences/Grievances

Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice a year in the latter part of November and in May to discuss the developmental progress of your child.

Cdc Age milestone and ASQ are used as a screening and to track development. If a parent is not fluent in English, information is translated into Spanish, Hebrew, and Russian. Feel free to arrange a meeting whenever an individual concern arises. These informal one-on-one meetings provide a way to clear up any misunderstandings. Please realize that to voice your concern is perfectly okay, and all we request is that it be done respectfully. Should you have any questions regarding your child's class that you feel should be dealt with immediately, please contact the following professionals in this order:

- 1) Shorashim: Morah Sheina
- 2) Garinim: Morah Sabrina
- 3) Perachim: Morah Beth
- 4) Program director and site manager Nechama Farkash
- 5) Rabbi Farkash, Executive Director of Chabad of the Central Cascades

Termination of Care Policies:

1) - Changing plans for enrollment before first day of school: If parents submit enrollment paperwork and registration fee but change their minds and decide NOT to send their child to Gani Preschool of the Arts before the stated first day (written on enrollment contract) parents are still responsible for payment of such month if school is not able to fill that spot before the first day. Ex: Beginning of new school year in September, if parents decide not to send their child, parents will be responsible of September's tuition if school is not able to fill that spot to compensate any losses related to the change.

-Written One-Month Notice during schoolyear (while enrolled): stating you are withdrawing your child from our program and understand you are responsible for payment of such month. Only formal notice will be accepted. (Please note, failure to pay such month will result in penalty fees which can be \$10.00 for each overdue day and reporting failure to pay to a collection agency).

-Gani Preschool of the Arts reserves the right of immediately terminating the enrollment contract if parents fail to pay tuition, are constantly late paying tuition, have unacceptable behaviors against staff members such as yelling, accusing, threatening, etc. As a business, Gani Preschool of the Arts has the right to refuse service to anyone who doesn't follow our policies.

Termination of Care Policies Continued:

2. Evaluation Process: - Gani Preschool of the Arts reserves the right to request withdrawal of a child who is not able to adjust developmentally, emotionally, or socially. - If we have concerns related to your child regarding behavioral or developmental issues or the child shows significant difficulty adjusting to the program an evaluation process will take place. Teachers, parents and if needed professional assistance are to be involved in the process.

3) Expulsion Policy: Gani Preschool of the Arts will provide help such as an observation for the child done by a behavioral specialist on site to provide assistance and a plan for the child. Parents are required to attend meetings and follow instructions provided by therapist, failure to do this will result in the child getting expelled immediately from care. If a pattern of unacceptable behaviors present serious safety concerns for the child or others Gani Preschool of the Arts will communicate in writing to parents about expulsion and reasons why the child is not allowed to return. Examples of unacceptable behaviors include hitting, biting, punching, inappropriate language, injuries towards a teacher, staff member, parent or student enrolled in our program, etc.

Health Policies

The health of your child is important to you as well as to our staff. It is your responsibility to determine that your child is physically well enough to come to preschool.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child home:

- he/she has a fever or has had one during the previous 24-hour period
 - he/she is within the first 24-hour period of taking an antibiotic
 - he/she has a colored nasal discharge
 - he/she has a constant cough
- he/she has symptoms of a possible communicable disease (red eye, diarrhea, flu)
- he/she is fussy, cranky, or tired and generally not behaving normally

Rest at such times may prevent the development of serious illness. Please notify the school at once if your child does have a communicable disease. Keeping your child at home will allow your child to recuperate with quiet rest and your special TLC. In addition, it will protect the well-being of our staff members, who are very dear to the children, and will further protect any staff member or classmate who has a weak immune system.

If your child becomes sick during school hours, exhibits any of the aforementioned symptoms, or is just not feeling up to par and not enjoying the day, we will set up a safe and comfortable isolated area where your child can rest until you arrive. If you cannot be reached, the emergency contact on your registration form will be called. Your child needs to be picked up within 30-60 min. The law prohibits us from administering medicine, creams, or lotions (even non-prescription) unless it is specifically labeled with your child's name, doctor's name, and parent's name.

Parents must also sign an authorization form stating administration and dosage. Forms for this purpose will be available at the preschool.

At enrollment, we must have on record a current health form and immunization record, which your child's doctor should fill out. It is imperative that you immediately notify the school regarding changes in your home telephone, cell phone, or beeper. In the event of an emergency, it will assure that we are able to contact you immediately. Children will be transported by paramedics to an appropriate healthcare facility. Chabad staff will not transport sick or injured children.

Lunch, Nutrition & Peanut / Nut Awareness School Policy



Lunch begins at 12:00 p.m. for the Garinim class and 1:00 pm for Shorashim class. currently, we provide lunch at an extra fee, however, your child still needs to bring one snack for the am and one for the pm if he/she is staying for aftercare. Please pack a nutritious snack that follows the USDA Nutrition Standards <https://www.nal.usda.gov/legacy/fnic/preschool-nutrition> and carefully select your child's foods. We rely on you to help us adhere to the kosher dietary laws. Please send only dairy or pareve snacks. As we try to encourage proper and healthful eating habits, please do not send any candy or high-calorie treats.

A list of snack ideas and suggestions is attached as an addendum to this handbook.

It is imperative that you remember our school has a NUT AWARENESS policy. The added vigilance would be in effect only if there is a child enrolled with nut allergies. If your child had a peanut butter sandwich for breakfast, please make sure that his/her hands and face are thoroughly washed. Lunch snacks (and granola bars) should be checked to ensure that they are completely peanut free. All foods and drinks that you as the parent select, should have a kosher symbol. See the addendum for a complete list.

If your child is allergic to any foods or has a special dietary requirement, please be sure to indicate it on your child's registration form you will be required to fill out additional forms.

Please Note

A child who does not eat for 3 consecutive days lunch: provided by a preschool or an alternative lunch with the USDA-approved equivalent or any equivalent food plan approved and signed by a Medical professional will be asked to be picked up after lunch.



Head Lice

Head lice are not a threat to our health but can be a nuisance. Control of head lice is a shared responsibility of both parents and the school. Parents can help limit the problem by checking their child's heads regularly. If lice or nits are found, the school must be notified. A child who has had head lice will be permitted to return following a treatment and lice check by the Preschool Director or her agent. Our state laws mandate that parents show verification that an initial treatment has occurred and that a second treatment will take place 10 days later. (Box tops, receipts, empty bottle, or signed note by parent are the various modes of verification.)

Rest Time:



We as a school are required to offer resting time for all children in our care who stay for a full day. We cannot physically awake children but create an awake environment to help them wake up. Children who cannot fall asleep are offered fidget toys, books, workbooks for quiet time

Tuition Payments

The annual tuition fee is divided into 10 installments and is paid with 10 post-dated checks for the first of each month from September thru June (the first and last month's checks are non-refundable) or by an automated credit card. Together with this handbook and info packet, you should receive a tuition payment plan form, which must be submitted to the office prior to enrollment. For any check not honored by the bank, there will be a \$35.00 fee. Parents or guardians who allow their accounts to become delinquent will have their children terminated from our program. Please note that the tuition is an annual fee and there are no credits or make-up days for illness, holidays, or family vacations. Please realize that at Chabad of the Central Cascades, we strive to maintain professional and ethical standards, and we can not allow make-up days for one child and not another. Please realize that your request for makeup days will be denied. Also, prior to enrolling please carefully review the preschool calendar, making note of the days our school is not in session, and have backup childcare plans if necessary. (Our school is out of session for the following Jewish and legal holidays: Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, MLK Day, Presidents Day, Passover/Spring Break, Shavuot and Memorial Day. *Please refer to addendum for impact of Covid and financial responsibilities.

Withdrawal Policy/Expulsion

We will make every effort to see that your child's needs are being nurtured each and every day. If, however, you choose to withdraw your child from our program, parents are required to give the school 30 days advance notice. All other financial responsibilities are found on your tuition contract *Please refer to the addendum for the impact of Covid and withdrawal. Expulsion will occur when a child jeopardizes the safety of other students or if the school does not have the resources to support or facilitate the behaviors or needs of a child

Gani has the right to suspend a child effective immediately if parents are abusive, cross boundaries, are harmful, or cause damage to the program

Change of Schedule

If a parent should desire to change a student's schedule in any way, whether it be to add days or an afternoon, it will be necessary for the parent to receive a note from the Secretary indicating that payment has been made for the change in schedule.

For a change of schedule: The office needs to be notified and given a 30-day notice. If a 30-day advance notice is not given, charges will still incur for that time period. When diminishing days of the original schedule a \$40 administrative fee will be applied. Reimbursements will be issued during the last week of June Late fees will be applied for tuition payments that are not deposited on the first of the month. When adding days mid-year we prorate the tuition based on 180 days of school.

Child Abuse and Neglect

All Chabad Preschool staff members are required by law to report suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect allegations are reported to the Central Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). If a parent suspects child abuse or neglect by a staff member please notify the director immediately. Parents may also contact the child abuse hotline directly.

Discipline Policy

Our program promotes a positive approach to managing the behavior of all children. To accomplish our goal the following techniques are used on a daily basis:

- 1) Prevention & Positive Reinforcement: Providing a daily routine, a sense of security and constantly praising and reinforcing appropriate behavior.
- 2) Setting Limits: Simple rules are established and consistently followed. A poster with five simple class rules is always displayed in the classroom.
- 3) Problem-Solving: We encourage the child to verbalize and use logical reasoning and consequences as the means of solving the problem at hand.
- 4) Remove Child From Situation: After all positive techniques have been referred to, the last alternative is to remove the child from the situation till he/she has relaxed and calmed down and is capable of returning to the group cooperatively. Physical restraint may only be used to protect a child from hurting himself/herself, or from hurting others.
- 5) Corporal punishment, including spanking, hitting, swatting, shaking or physical punishment and restraint of any kind are NEVER allowed, nor is the withholding of food.

Discipline Policy (Cont.)

6) Our goal is to help each child:

- Learn to make good choices
- Learn to use his/her word
- Learn problem-solving skills
- Learn basic human values of respect (kavod), trust, responsibility, honesty (Emet), and caring for others.

Your child is expected to meet an acceptable standard of behavior as set by the teacher.

7) If your child's behavior falls below the standard, after all our efforts, you will be asked to seek professional intervention so that a behavior plan can be implemented. Please note, that if after a reasonable period of time a child is not able to adjust to the demands of the group, the class schedule, or if there are special needs that Chabad Preschool is not able to meet, parents may choose or be asked to withdraw their child.



Security

The safety of our students is our top priority. Gani preschool of the Arts has hired Sarka company to provide ongoing security personal for our students and staff

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Potty Training Policy

Children who enter the Preschool class must be completely potty trained. For children in the Toddler class, when a parent feels that their child is developmentally ready to use the potty, the child should be sent to school in pull-ups rather than diapers. This allows us to easily assist your child with the toileting process. When you feel your child is able to make the transition to being fully potty trained, schedule a time to discuss this with your child's teacher, and we will come up with a plan together on how to support your child so that there is consistency both at home and at school. From our past experiences, we have seen this plan boost self-confidence and attain potty training success. See addendum #5

Releasing Of A Child

Children are released only to their parents or to people stated in writing on the child's registration form. All pick up contacts should be added to your child's Brightwheel profile.

Toys From Home

Toys and items of value should remain at home. We cannot assume responsibility for materials brought from home. Furthermore, we have found that toys from home are hard to share, and create a distraction to the class atmosphere. In the Preschool class (ages 3-4), the teacher may notify you of the show & tell schedule. When your child has a cherished item, please suggest that it be left in the car seat or placed in his/her classroom cubby. Toys from home can also be a choking hazard for your child and those in our program

Pick Up & Drop Off

The parent or guardian who brings and takes the child into the classroom must sign the child in and out from your phone device thru the Brightwheel app. This is a safety measure that we strictly adhere to, and request your full cooperation with.

During drop off and pick up please realize that the care of the children is the teacher's first and foremost responsibility. Please respect the teachers by keeping the morning and afternoon "chit chat" to a minimum, so as not to distract the teacher from her primary responsibility of caring for the children. Should you at any time wish to have a long talk with a teacher, please request the teacher to set up a suitable time to discuss any question or concern. Once you arrive at school to pick up your child and enter the classroom (or playground if children are playing outside) the child is under your responsibility.

Children thrive on routine, so it's crucial for them to arrive no later than 8:30am. They need that time to explore and let out their morning energy. In addition your child functions within the context of peers and a classroom environment, we have a class schedule and a late arrival disrupts that schedule for themselves and their peers. There is no drop-off at Shorashim during circle time (9:30-10:00). For Garinim drop-off cut-off is 10:30. As of 10 am your child will be marked absent and cannot be brought to school.

Accommodations/exceptions can be made with prior communication with Nechama for occasional doctor's appointments.

Before care from off is at 8:00am at the Shul House

Drop off Time: 8:30 am (please note that the teachers need the time prior to 8:30 to get ready for class)

Late Fees

Pick up (half day): is from 12:20-12:30 Garinim/1:30 Shorashim. Please refrain from socializing after this time because it disrupts the routine and rest time of the children staying for the afternoon. Latest pick up (full day): is from 4:20 – 4:30 (3:20-3:30 during winter Fridays). Should you have an emergency please contact the teacher or director. There will be a fee of \$5 for every 5-minute delay (the computer system automatically generates this information at the end of the month).

Clothing

Children should wear clothing that is appropriate for floor activities and messy art. Although we use washable paints and markers, please don't send your child in clothing that would disappoint you if it gets dirty. Also, please be sure your child's clothes are easily managed during toileting. Hard-to-close snaps, belts, and overalls that have buckles should be avoided. A young child's self-esteem is enhanced when he or she can be independently successful.

Since children enjoy running and playing on the outdoor playground, we discourage children from wearing flip-flops or sandals that do not provide adequate support. In addition, children get frustrated when mulch gets stuck in their sandals.

We strongly advise parents to make sure their child is wearing socks even during the summer season. Children love the freedom and gross motor opportunity that they gain from outdoor play, and by wearing strong closed shoes (sneakers), we can bolster this wonderful opportunity. Please make sure to bring a hat that can stay in school. Please label all hats, sweaters, and clothing that stay in your child's cubby or on the classroom hooks. Labeling will assist the teachers in determining ownership of these articles of clothing.

Birthdays

At Gani Preschool birthdays are celebrated once a month. Cupcakes are prepared by our staff and are usually served after lunch. The dates for these monthly birthday celebrations are set at the beginning of the school year, and prior to your child's preschool birthday celebration, you will be notified. Parents are invited to celebrate at school with song and dance, and take memorable photographs. To honor their child's birthday, parents are encouraged to gift a book, puzzle, toy, or game to the classroom. Please check our classroom wish list. Please do not bring goody bags or candies

*During Covid Pandemic, Parents will participate via zoom

Children's Playground Rules



For the safety and the benefit of the children, we have established a few playground rules, which we would like you to review with your child. These rules are hung outside on the playground and are referred to by the staff as they provide gentle reminders to the children about our rules.

1. Hands to yourself.
2. Mulch stays on the ground.
3. Walk around the swing area.
4. Fence is not for climbing.
5. Help clean up.
6. Sand stays in the sand table (water/water table).
7. Feet first on the slide.

Roster

A link with our parent/teacher roster is sent out at the beginning of the year. The purpose of sharing this roster is to create a Preschool community where parents can schedule play dates, send birthday invites, and keep in touch. You also have the teacher's contact info so that the lines of communication are always open.

We pride ourselves in our diverse Preschool community and strive to be respectful to all families, We put in place for this year some basic guidelines to make everyone comfortable: When Birthday parties are celebrated outside Preschool and all families are invited, we politely request that you refrain from serving pepperoni and shellfish. A Gluten Free option would be appreciated as well if one of the little guests has sensitivities. Kosher Pizza can always be ordered by Island Crust at 206-232-7878, For more resources, contact Nechama.

Separation Anxiety

For children who are new to the preschool experience, please realize that it is very common for children to display signs of separation anxiety. Please realize that our goal is to help you and your child go through the initial transition comfortably.

Please realize that if after a parent leaves, a child is crying uncontrollably for more than one-half hour, we will call you.

However, after saying a final goodbye, you are welcome to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee in the social hall or relax with a book from our Judaic library. Additionally, if a child has a difficult time separating from one parent, you may want to try to have another parent or relative drop off your child. Also, for children having separation difficulty, we recommend picking them up a bit earlier for the first few days. Most times, after the parent leaves, the child becomes absorbed with toys and the environment and is free of any apprehension. Having a family photo brought into school on the first day of school, helps us bridge the school-home connection.

- Establish a goodbye routine. This can be “two kisses and a hug and then I must go” or other unique patterns like kissing a hand to save the kiss. It is ok to stay a few minutes. However, once you say goodbye you need to mean it! Responding to the plea to stay after you have gone through “your routine” nullifies its effectiveness as a separation tool to help. It also sends the message that you are worried that he/she will not be ok.

- Help your child choose an activity he/she will move to as you leave

- Practice your good-bye routine or review your expectation prior to arriving. For example, “Remember, after....I will need to go and you can...”

- Validate your child’s feelings. “You miss me when I have to go. I am going to miss you too, but I know you will have a fun day at school”

- Leave security toys in the car. “Puppy dog will be waiting for you” (we can not be responsible for personal toys that come to school)

Respect

Please respect the religious nature of our school in the following ways:

- Although our preschool calendar respects the legal holidays, we are a Jewish preschool and would like to request that our parents help remind their children that Halloween and other non-Jewish holidays are not celebrated at Chabad Jewish Preschool.
- Please review and respect our kosher policy, and if you have any questions, they can be directed to the teacher or director. Let us address your questions and assure you that there is a mutual understanding.

Your respect is essential in allowing us to fulfill our goals, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Substitutes

From time to time, when our teachers are out sick or take a family vacation, it is necessary for us to secure a substitute. If you would like to assist in this capacity, please speak to the Preschool Director. Substituting is a paid position.

Severe Weather Watch

In cases of severe weather such as snow or power outages, the preschool will close when the public schools or county offices close. Staff will be kept informed and parents will be notified. Parents will be told to keep themselves informed throughout the day and to be prepared to pick up their child within 1 hour of school closings.

Natural Disasters

Gani has an emergency preparedness program. There is a copy of each plan in every classroom and you are encouraged to read it and discuss it with your child. You will receive a letter stating that you acknowledge our Disaster procedures, Please bring in a small backpack or bag labeled with your child's name:

- Pack of sanitary/baby wipes (20 wipes)
- Spare Blanket or change of warm clothes
- Supply of baby Diapers and wipes for three days (if your child is not potty trained)
 - Index card with Emergency contact including one Out of State Contact
- Provide an emergency/comfort kit for your child.
- Provide a 72-hour supply of any medication or medical supplies/equipment that your child may need
- 1 and a half gallons of water (in water bottles) as well as three days' worth of Emergency food, that:
 1. Is easy to serve
 2. Does not require cooling or heating
 3. Has a long shelf life
- 4. Is stored protected from heat, cold, and pests Ideas of Emergency food: granola/energy bars, apple sauce pouches, tuna pouches, raisins, and other dried fruit, canned beans (preferably easy open cans), rice cakes, Matza....

Summer Program

Gan Izzy Day camp will offer an eight-week summer program for Preschool students. Summer fee is not part of the yearly tuition. Parents have the liberty to sign up only for the weeks their child will attend

Summer Program: 8 weeks of summer fun

Lunch and Snacks

Children should bring am snacks and lunches – ready to eat (peeled, sliced, etc.). Please also send your child with a water bottle. Please send in dairy or vegetarian lunches and snacks.

Sunscreen/Sunhats:

Please bring sunscreen to leave at school. Please apply sunscreen on your children before they come to camp, we will reapply thorough out the day. Please make sure to send your child with a sunhat. The sunscreen form will be sent on the Brightwheel please upload it under forms.

Water Play/Swim Gear:

We have sprinklers and lots of splashing fun. Bring swim gear (bathing suit and towel). If your child is in diapers, please bring disposable/reusable water diapers. All items must be labeled. Swim gear will be sent home by the end of each week.

Nap Gear:

Tzeirim - Please make sure to bring nap gear (small sheet, blanket, and any lovey your child may need for resting time).

Bogrim: blanket and pillow (pillow is optional)

Summer Program (Cont.)

Extra clothes:

Bring at least an extra change of clothes to stay in the classroom for the duration of camp.

Labeling Items:

Please label ALL water bottles, sunhats, towels, and swimming gear. A Fine Sharpie does a great job. Labeling items makes identifying the children's items easier and helps prevent the loss of items.

Field Trips:

Our field trips are IN SITE – preschoolers do not leave the Camp premises.

Drop off and pick up

Children can be dropped off starting at 8:45 am and picked up at 3:45, but no later than 4:00 pm.

For your child's safety, please sign the arrival and departure times using the barcode located on the bulletin board outside the classroom.

If your child has been registered for aftercare, then pick up no later than 4:45 pm.

Communication

All communication must be done through the Brightwheel application.

Simple Suggestions For Parents To Help Make Preschool A Happy Experience 😊

- 1) See that your child has sufficient rest and sleep – usually 12 or 13 hours for the two-and-a-half to three-year-old.
- 2) To make your child more comfortable, provide simple clothing that is free of complicated belts and closures.
- 3) Since children get very involved with their art projects, please provide clothing that is washable.
- 4) Please realize the validity and significance of play, and the importance of what is learned.
- 5) Think of our beautiful playground; provide clothing and shoes that are sturdy. Flip flops and shoes without a back have a tendency to fall off and do not allow the child to enjoy outdoor play to its fullest. Wearing socks will assure that mulch and dirt do not bother your child while playing on the playground.
- 6) Send your child off to school in a happy frame of mind and show interest in what he/she does at school and what he/she is learning.

Simple Suggestions For Parents To Help Make Preschool A Happy Experience (Cont.)

- 7) Encourage your child to talk about what he/she did in school. When receiving an answer like “I don’t know” or “nothing”, you can prompt your child by asking more specific questions. (What did you eat for lunch? What song did you sing at group time? Etc...)
- 8) Encourage your child to frequently wash hands to ward off the spread of germs.
- 9) Get involved, volunteer your time, and share a professional interest or hobby with our school. Parents who volunteer are known to positively affect their child’s success in school.
- 10) Get to know your child’s teacher and keep open communication throughout the school year. Please remember that when parents and preschool staff work together, we can help your child develop to his or her full potential.

Menu Week A

Monday

Potato latkes*
Cheese Bourekas
Steamed green beans
Fruit
Milk

Tuesday

Rice
Hard-boiled Eggs
Israeli salad
(tomatoes and
cucumbers & small pieces)
corn
Milk

Wednesday

Pizza*
Grilled Sweet
potatoes
Fresh Fruit
Milk

Thursday

Chicken soup,
Chicken &
orzo*
Soup vegetables
(carrots, parsnips, turnips
, sweet potatoes)
Rice Milk

Friday

Pasta
Meat balls *
Baby peppers
Pineapple
Rice Milk

*Gluten Free Option Available

Menu Week B

Monday

Turkey sweet potato
soup
Fruit
Milk

Tuesday

Omelets
Israeli salad
(tomatoes & cucumbers)
Chumus/guacamole
Bread
Milk

Wednesday

Baked ziti*
Fruit soup
steamed carrots
Milk

Thursday

Mashed potatoes
Broccoli and
cauliflower
Beef burgers*
Rice Milk

Friday

Baked chicken
drumsticks
Couscous*
Green peas
Fruit
Rice Milk

*Gluten Free Option Available

Calendar:

September 1st - No school, Labor Day

Tuesday September 2nd - First Day of Preschool

Tuesday, September 2nd 4:00pm - Parent Open House, followed by Family picnic

Monday September 23rd - 12:30 dismissal- Erev Rosh Hashana

Tue-Wed September 24th , 25th - No school Rosh Hashana

Wednesday October 1st 12:30 dismissal- Erev Yom Kippur

Thursday October 2nd - Yom Kippur no school

Tues-Wed October 7-8th - No school - Sukkot

Tues-Wed October 14-15th - No school - Simchat Torah

Saturday November 15th - Gani Families Havdala

Monday/Tuesday - November 24-25th - Afternoon Parent teacher conferences (full day of school)

Thur - Friday, November 27 th -28th - No school - Thanksgiving Break

Monday December 15th - Chanukah party (3:30pm)

Wednesday Dec. 24th - January 2nd - No school - winter break

Friday February 12th No school - Teacher professional Day

Monday February 16th -No school - Presidents Day

Monday March 30th - April 10th - No school - Pessach - spring break

Monday, May 18th - Afternoon Parent Teacher conferences (optional).

Friday May 22nd - No school - Shavuot

Monday , May 25th - No school - Memorial Day

Friday June 19th - Graduation

Wednesday June 24th - Last Day of school

Monday June 29th - Gan Izzy Day Camp begins

Student Essentials To Be Brought In At Orientation

Garinim Essentials

- 2 changes of clothing in a labeled zip-lock plastic bag
- completion of all necessary preschool forms & notarized form
- 1 Costco box of baby wipes (or of similar quantity). We will ask for more on an as-needed basis (approximately 12 soft packs)
- 4 containers sanitizing wipes (must say: kills 99.9% of germs), environmentally friendly brand preferred
 - 2 weeks' supply of diapers
 - 4 boxes of tissues
 - 1 box Band-Aids
- a recent family photo to be emailed by August 24th to sabrina.berges@gmail.com
 - hat for outdoor play
 - A pair of rain boots
- Muddy Buddy or another rain suit

Please label all items

Shorashim (Ages 3-4) Essentials

- 2 changes of clothing in a labeled zip-lock plastic bag
 - completion of all necessary preschool forms & notarized form
 - 2 boxes of baby wipes
 - 4 boxes of tissues
- 4 containers sanitizing wipes (must say: kills 99.9% of germs) environmentally friendly brand preferred
 - 1 box of bandaids
 - Pair of rain boots
 - hat for outdoor play

Please label all items

General Snacks:

- Yogurt
- Sliced cheese
- String cheese
- Cottage cheese
- Macaroni and cheese
- Bagel
- pizza
- Rice cakes

Sandwiches:

- Cream Cheese
 - Tuna Fish
 - Jelly
 - Egg or Egg Salad
 - Margarine
 - Peanut Butter
 - Sunbutter *
- *Peanut butter substitute)

Fruits and Vegetables: 

- Sliced Cucumbers
- Sliced Tomatoes
- Celery Sticks
- Melon Cubes
- Fruit Cups
- Apples
- Apple Sauce
- Grapes (Cut please)

Treat:

- Bread Sticks
- Graham Crackers
- Pretzels
- Pudding
- Jell-O

Drink:

- Juice
- Milk
- Water

Dairy or Pareve Only. Please do not send in any candy. Remember, we are a “nut-aware” school. We will assess yearly if it will be a nut-free year. Any packaged product sent in your child’s lunch box must have a kosher symbol. Should you have any further questions, feel free to speak to your child’s teacher or director.

Potty Training - Ready, set, go!



Children do not need to be able to use the toilet independently to enter our program. Achieving potty independence is a developmental milestone and we recognize that each child develops at his/her own pace. When a child shows signs that they are ready to learn toilet independence, we will make it convenient for the child to use the toilet and provide help as needed.

Readiness falls into three general categories: Physical, intellectual, and emotional:

- Physical readiness means the ability to hold on and let go. A first sign is when children go for longer and longer periods with a dry diaper. Physical readiness also is determined by children's ability to handle their own clothing—pulling down pants, for example.
- A sign of intellectual readiness is when children tell the adult after eliminating or indicate in other ways that they are aware and can communicate what is happening with their own bodies.
- Emotional readiness comes when children show a willingness to use a potty or a toilet instead of diapers.

At Gani we use the “readiness”- approach rather than the “catch them”. A child who needs regular reminders and does not recognize his body's cues, is still at beginning stages of readiness, and should be in diapers at school.

(cont.)

Potty Training (Cont.)

Is your child showing readiness? - Let's work together!

- We will start by scheduling potty breaks at school. We will encourage your child to pull down/up pants, sit on the toilet for a few minutes at one-hour intervals or less, as well as right before/after naps or other transitions. Every visit to the toilet will be recorded to keep track of cues and needs.

- We will explain hygiene. Teach how to wipe carefully, flash and wash hands afterward.

- Nap time training typically takes longer to achieve. We will put on diapers for a few days/weeks, as needed.

We ask you to please:

- Bring your child to school in loose, easy-to-remove clothing. No jeans, onesies, overalls, buttoned pants, etc.

- Take your child to the restroom at drop off. The first pee-pee break should be with you.

- Bring a few changes of underwear and clothing (pants, socks, extra pair of shoes, tops).

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Accidents will happen! Stay calm, please avoid negative words, such as dirty or stinky. Don't scold, discipline or shame. Use positive words as "You forgot this time. Next time you'll get to the bathroom sooner."

Team Garinim

Sleep & Rest policy

Licensing (WAC) specifies that we are required to provide rest periods (for children that remain in our care more than six hours per day), and let children follow their own sleep needs and patterns.

The CDC states how much sleep young children need as follows: Toddlers should sleep 11-14 hours per 24 hours (including naps)

As children grow and develop, naps give their bodies and minds time to rest and recharge. We spend our mornings playing and exploring through high energy level activities. We have no screen time during school hours and very little sedentary activities. After four-five active hours of play, children are tired and need their rest in order to continue their day.

The length of nap time in the Garinim room is two hours. Shorashim is 1 hour. Some children sleep less, some more, according to their individual patterns and the school's schedule/routines.

Some children wake up on their own, while others are still sleeping. After our designated nap time is over, we open the curtains, turn off the white noise music and turn on the lights. Children start naturally waking up with noise and light. We gently try to wake up children that are still sleeping, and over a period of 15-20 minutes, as the students are up, diapered/use the potty and transition to snack/story time.

When we try to wake up children in the middle of nap time, and we fail (heavy crying which is highly disruptive to sleeping children, children not being able to sit up without being held, children that crash down and fall asleep again, etc,) they are showing us they need that rest.

Following licensing we can't force children to stay awake, or forcibly wake them up. Following children's needs and patterns, we believe that if a child falls asleep or can't be gently encouraged to wake up after an hour/an hour and a half, his/her body needs that rest.

We believe in helping children achieve a good balance between day rest (1.5-2 hours) and night rest (usually 10-12 hours at night, bedtime 7:30-8:00, wake up time 6:00-7:00). This way they come to school every morning ready to play and learn, recharge for an active afternoon, and are ready for a healthy bedtime routine.

