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WELCOME

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Torah Tots Preschool. We are pleased that you have chosen us as a “home away from home” for your youngster. We at Torah Tots are proud to offer a creative Jewish environment where your child’s unique style is valued and nurtured. We encourage your child to explore the world, to learn to be a part of a group and to solve problems in a constructive manner.

We’re sure your child will soon agree
That Torah Tots is a great place to be.
We have a whole year ahead with plans galore
There’s learning, playing, singing and much, much more!

Your summer vacation was certainly an enjoyable one,
But now at Torah Tots starts the real fun!
That includes meeting new children and nicely getting along,
While learning different concepts often through story and song.

We’re sure we’ll have your cooperation this year
For the parents’ input is very necessary here,
So if you will just continue to read
We’ll let you know what your child will need.

A lunch (dairy or pareve) in a lunch box to be brought every day
And please pack a box of tissues on the way,
A daily penny for charity to give those in need,
And a little backpack to carry it all would be helpful indeed.

You might often find articles in your home
Egg cartons, plastic bottles or pieces of foam,
Many things that have no value to you
Can make beautiful projects – so please send them in too.

Also, a change of clothing should be sent to us
But in order to prevent any hassle or fuss
Try to make sure that a name is written big and clear
And then the clothes can be returned at the end of the year.

Once that’s said and done, we’re off to a good start
We have ten packed months before we must part
But there’s one more message that we’d like to relay
Before we end this little letter today.

We have a Mitzvah Rocket and Tree hanging on our walls
Waiting for Mitzvos (good deeds while it stands sooo tall),
So with every mitzvah that your child does
Jot down a note so he/she can share it with us.

We hope to accomplish “learning can be fun” as the rule
So get ready for a well-planned and productive year at the one
And only Torah Tots Preschool!!!!!!

1. Mission Statement and Educational Goals and Beliefs

Mission Statement

Torah Tots Preschool will provide the Jewish children of Southern Nevada with a Jewish education based on Torah and Halacha together with a comprehensive present day education so that they will be fully prepared to participate as highly successful students in elementary school and beyond. Part of our mission is to reach out to the parent body of our students, to expose them to the richness of Jewish traditions, laws and holidays and to help them to learn and grow together with their children.

Educational Beliefs

We believe....

In fostering a positive Jewish identity and love of Torah in our students.

that the teachings of Chabad philosophy are an important component in fostering this love of Torah.

that it is our duty to be respectful of the diversity of backgrounds of our students in religious observance and practice.

that family and school must work as a team in order to provide the best education for a child.

that it is our duty to provide financial aide in the form of scholarships to those families who truly need it.

that our curriculum and teaching methodology, both secular and Judaic, be shaped for optimum responsiveness to the unique strengths and learning styles of each student.

that we must expose our children to moral and ethical beliefs and teachings so that they grow to be upright and productive American citizens.

that it is our duty to teach our children to love the land of Israel and the Hebrew language spoken there.

that we must instill our students with a love of learning so they will become lifelong learners.

that our school can serve as a valuable resource to the overall Jewish community of Southern Nevada.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Chabad Torah Tots is licensed by the State of Nevada Division of Health Child Care Licensing Unit and is associated with the Chabad Lubavitch Worldwide Movement. Our school is accredited by the National Council for Private School Accreditation and the National Accreditation Board of Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch. Our staff consists of qualified and experienced teachers who are trained in early childhood education. Our teachers participate in a continuous program of in-service education and studies for professional advancement in order to remain alert to the ever-changing needs of today's families and to the findings of current research.

Your child will enjoy our modern facility, which has spacious classrooms, a large, new outdoor playground and an outdoor picnic area. Torah Tots Preschool is centrally located and in close proximity to the freeways.

At the Torah Tots Preschool your child will be exposed to a rich and meaningful Jewish program consisting of Jewish holidays, traditions, the Hebrew alphabet and language. In addition, he/she will be offered a comprehensive secular curriculum, which includes reading and math readiness, concepts in science and social studies. All of the above is taught through music, art and creative play. We also offer weekly classes in computers, and drama.

We hope to make you feel a part of our "family" as Torah Tots is a place where parents and, indeed, the entire family play a very integral part of the educational process. Through holiday celebrations, birthday parties, newsletters, parent conferences and social activities, your family becomes a significant part of our very special Jewish community.

TODDLER POLICIES

Class Placement: Toddlers in the 12 month old class MUST be at least 12 months old on their first day of school. Toddlers in the 2 year old class MUST be at least 2 years old on their first day of school. Students will remain in the class in which they start the year even if they turn older during the school year.

Diapering Policy: Every child who is not toilet trained will have their diaper changed at a minimum of every three hours (more often if necessary). There is a detailed step-by-step diaper changing procedure posted at the changing table in each classroom. Children provide labeled diapers and wipes from home, and we will indicate on the daily report when refills are necessary.

Bathing/HandWashing Policy: Every child will have their hands washed with warm water and soap at the following times (more often as necessary): before eating, when coming in from outside play and after toileting/diapering. Hand washing procedures are posted at the sink in each classroom.

Toilet Training: Teachers will work with parents on toilet training their child when the parents feel that their child is ready and begin training at home. The parent and teacher will fill out a Toilet Training Checklist to confirm that the child is ready. Teachers will ask parents to let them know the words and language they use at home in regards to toilet training for continuity. Parents and teachers are provided with a detailed Toilet Training Policy form when toilet training begins.

Daily Report: Every child will bring home a Daily Report to inform his/her parents about the day. The daily report will include information on your child's favorite activities of the day, their mood, eating habits diapering/toileting times and additional information as necessary.

NURSERY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Your child must be at least 3 years of age by October 1 and toilet trained to begin school and can continue in our program until he/she is ready to begin Kindergarten.

Please note that state law requires all forms and immunization records be completely updated and on file before your child begins school.

All that we expect of your child is that he/she come to school, be him/herself and have respect for others. What we expect from parents and guardians is that you read the operating procedures in the handbook and in supplemental notes, the newsletters that we send home, the emails that we send and that you feel free to be part of the school, offering suggestions, comments and constructive criticisms, as well as financial and moral support.

Nap time takes place for all Torah Tots classes from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Each child is provided with a labeled cot or a Pack 'n Play crib. Children bring labeled sheets, pillows, blankets, etc. from home. Sleeping materials are sent home every Friday for washing

3. ADMISSION

In order to enroll a child in Torah Tots, parents are encouraged to visit the school and meet with the Director to learn about the school's philosophy, curriculum and operational policies. Completed enrollment forms, medical form and behavioral and financial agreements are required along with the fees at the time of registration.

AGE GROUPS

12 month old	Toddlers 1
2 year old	Toddlers 2
3 year old	Nursery
4 year old	Pre-Kindergarten

4. SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS

Our address is 1312 Vista Drive
Our phone number is 702-259-1000
Our fax number is 702-776-7599
Our email address is info@dtalv.com
Our website is deserttorahacademy.org
In the event of an after hours emergency contact Dina Harlig at 702-461-0777

Torah Tots Preschool utilizes several valuable resources for communication with the school community. The Sycamore Education website, Torah Tots/Desert Torah Academy website, the blog, and the Torah Tots Facebook page are all excellent ways to keep abreast of all school news and events and generally to keep in touch. Please refer to #11 on page 7 for details about all of these resources.

5. SCHOOL HOURS

Half Day – Toddlers	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Half Day – Preschool	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Full Day	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

3 Full Day or 3 Half Day Programs are available

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
or

Tuesday, Thursday Friday

Extended care 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

On Friday during the winter, dismissal is at 2:00 pm

6. SIGN-IN SHEETS

Each parent is responsible for signing in and out his/her child each day on the sign in sheet in each classroom.

7. ARRIVALS

Please ensure that your child is dropped off between 8:45 and 8:55 am daily, so classes can start on time. An important way to help your child learn responsibility and consideration for others is to bring him/her to school on time. When a child enters a classroom late, it is disruptive to the teacher and to the other children. It is also difficult for the child who is late. In addition to missing an unhurried greeting from the teacher, the child may miss the formation of peer playgroups and valuable information about the day's activities. If it is unavoidable to occasionally drop your child off after 9:00 am please check in at the front office before proceeding to the classroom.

8. PICK-UP

Your child should be picked up on time. When someone other than yourself is picking up your child at the end of the day, you are to notify the teacher and office in advance. Torah Tots students who are being picked up together with DTA students at 4:00 pm or on Fridays should be picked up where the carpool dismissal is held. Children are called to their car as it approaches the front of the carpool line. If parents so desire they can park their car in a designated parking spot and accompany their children to a parked car. Parents picking up their children at 3:00 pm must come into the building, sign their child out, and pick them up from the classroom.

9. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Tuition is based on a yearly fee. There are 4 types of payment plans. (Please see admission agreement sheet for tuition fees.) There are no refunds or credits for illness, holidays or family vacations. There are also no make-up days available.

Please cooperate with the above tuition policy and assist us in making your child's program the best it can possibly be.

10. SCHOOL CALENDAR

Torah Tots observes all Jewish and National holidays. Please refer to the School Calendar for schedules of holidays and special events. Additional reminders will be sent home before each of these days.

Halloween, Valentines Day and St. Patrick's Day are not celebrated at Torah Tots Preschool.

11. COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is essential to your child's education. Feel free to contact the school about any matter whatsoever. You are encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns with your child's teacher. If you have further questions or concerns, please discuss them with the Director or the Assistant Director.

The Sycamore Education Online School Management website, www.sycamoreeducation.com and the Torah Tots/Desert Torah Academy website, www.deserttorahacademy.org, are excellent ways to communicate with the school community. Visit both websites to obtain general school and class event information. All staff, including teachers and administration can be reached via email through the Sycamore website. Sycamore Education requires a user ID and password, which are emailed to all parents once their children are registered in Torah Tots. A great way to see pictures of all the exciting happenings around Torah Tots is on our Torah Tots blog at www.torahTOTpreschool.worldpress.com and on our Torah Tots Facebook page.

The school administration sends out emails informing parents of various school events and other news throughout the year. Often these emails contain important information. Please look for, and read carefully, any email sent by Desert Torah Academy.

Frequently, children are given school and community information in the form of notes or memos to be taken home. Please check your child's backpack daily to ensure that you don't miss out on important information.

A monthly newsletter is published and sent home with each student. This includes upcoming events, news from the classrooms, pictures, reminders and more.

Twice yearly we will send home detailed progress reports on the development of your child. Follow up assessments will be conducted as necessary. More general progress reports will be sent home approximately once a month. It is important, however, for parents to realize that each 3 and 4 year old develops at an individual pace. Do not be alarmed if your child's progress report indicates slower development in certain areas. Of course, if we notice any area of major concern, we will notify you immediately. Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled once a year, in November or December. Of course, a conference may be held at any time that the teacher and/or the parent feels it is necessary.

12. BIRTHDAYS

Classroom birthday parties may be arranged in cooperation with the staff at school, at least two weeks in advance. The parties can only be held on Fridays at our weekly Shabbos Parties. The Shabbos Birthday Party Sign Up Sheet is available in the office. The school must approve all refreshments brought for the celebration beforehand.

Invitations for birthday parties held outside of the school can be distributed in school if:

- 1) all of your child's classmates are invited.
- 2) The party is not held on Shabbos.
- 3) Kosher food is available. All invitations need to be handed to the Director **before** distributing them to the classroom.

Parents are also encouraged to purchase a gift for the classroom in honor of their child's birthday. Check with the office to choose from a catalog of books, games, etc. and to find out what that particular class may need.

13. SHABBOS PARTIES

Each Friday, we celebrate the coming of Shabbos with a Shabbos party. It is our desire to make it very special. We have a Shabbos party sign-up sheet for parents to choose a Friday that he/she can participate on (ex: the Friday closest to a child's birthday). We will ask that on your week you bring a treat to share with the children, which will be discussed beforehand. Your child will participate in lighting Shabbos candles, making Kiddush and enjoying special treats. When it is your child's turn to be the "Abba" or "Ima", your child can bring flowers for our Shabbos table and dress in semi-festive clothes. Parents are always welcome to participate in the Shabbos party and we welcome any ideas you would like to share with us.

14. WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ILL

Your child's health is a matter of major importance to us. He/she may be sent home if any symptoms of illness appear during the day. In such cases, your child will be immediately isolated from the others and you will be contacted.

15. ILLNESS POLICY

In order to comply with Clark County Health Department regulations, the following policies are in effect.

Guidelines for excluding from program

The following symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Children who have these symptoms will be excluded from the school setting until a physician has certified in writing that the symptoms are not associated with an infection agent or they are no longer a threat to the health of other children or until the symptoms have subsided for 24 hours.

Fever – 100 degrees or higher, especially if accompanied by other symptoms, such as vomiting, sore throat, diarrhea, headache, and stiff neck or undiagnosed rash.

Respiratory Symptoms – Difficult or rapid breathing or severe coughing; child makes high-pitched croupy or whooping sound after he/she coughs and child is unable to lie comfortably due to continuous rash.

Diarrhea – An increased number of abnormally loose stools in the previous 12 hours or 2 episodes at the school.

Vomiting – Two or more episodes of vomiting within the previous 12 hours or one episode at the school.

Eye/Nose Drainage – Thick, green mucus or pus draining from the eye or nose.

Sore Throat – Sore throat, especially when fever or swollen glands in neck are present.

Skin Problems – Skin rashes, undiagnosed or contagious. Infected sores with crusty, yellow or green drainage, which cannot be covered by clothing or bandages.

Itching – Persistent itching (or scratching) of body or scalp.

Appearance/Behavior- Child looks or acts differently, unusually tired, pale, lacking appetite, confused, irritable, difficult to awaken.

Unusual Color- Eyes or skin yellow (jaundice): stool gray or white, urine dark or tea colored. These symptoms can be found in hepatitis and should be evaluated by a physician.

Guidelines For Re-Admitting-If the Director's assessment of the illness indicates need for further evaluation, the parent must bring a "return to school" statement back to the school on the child's next attendance day. A child taking antibiotics must be excluded for 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotic, whether the illness is contagious or not.

Communicable Disease Policy- Parents are asked to notify the school as soon as possible in the event of illness or if their child has been exposed to any communicable disease.

Desert Torah and Torah Tots Preschool will notify parents in writing when the children have been exposed to a communicable disease. Further, the school will notify Southern Nevada Health District when any illness or condition specified by law or regulation is present in the program within 24 hours of the school's awareness of the situation.

Immunizations need to be current for children enrolled in the school and updated as scheduled. Students are required to have satisfied the immunization requirements as stated on the Nevada Immunization Record. If parents choose not to have their child immunized for **religious** reasons they must write a note stating so. They must specify which immunizations they do not wish their child to have. If a child cannot have certain immunizations for **medical** reasons, a note from a **doctor** is required.

Medications Administered

The only medication administered by school staff shall be prescribed by a physician.

1. The prescribed medications must be in the original pharmacist's bottle, with a current pharmacist's label.
2. Over the counter medications will only be given if the physician writes a prescription for it that includes the child's name, date, name of medication, amount to be given, physician's name, phone number and signature.
3. Parents must complete and sign a medication request form for each medication administered.

You must inform the office if your child is not well and tell us what his/her symptoms are so that we can watch for other outbreaks of a similar illness.

In case of an accidental injury (G-d forbid) we will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent or the emergency contact person. If we cannot reach you or the emergency contact person, we will call the child's physician. If necessary, we will also call an ambulance or paramedics. Until the arrival of a parent, the physician and ambulance or

paramedics, the Director or an Assistant will be in charge and make all decisions about the care of the child.

16. TZEDAKAH

Part of your child's program at our school is to develop an awareness and commitment to share with others who are less fortunate. We encourage you to send a penny with your child each day for our Tzedakah (charity) box. You may send in a bunch of pennies every few weeks to be left in your child's cubby to be distributed daily.

17. MITZVAH NOTES

Every day we ask that parents send a mitzvah note. This is a good deed note that tells of something special the child has done, for example, the child "listened to a parent" or "cleared the table". The children really look forward to hearing what their parents have to say and love hanging their notes up in their classrooms.

18. FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the year your child will participate in several exciting and educational field trips. Children will not be able to participate in these trips unless the parent or guardian signs a permission slip. General permission slips for all field trips must be signed at the beginning of the school year. In addition, notices for specific trips are sent home shortly before the scheduled date. These notices must also be signed and returned to the office. If a trip fee is requested, parents will be notified in advance. The school will ask parents to help in car pools and chaperone on the outings. **Car seats for every child are required on all field trips.** On field trip days, please leave your child's car seat in front of the school. We always appreciate your voluntary assistance and urge you to participate whenever possible.

19. CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT / DISCIPLINE

The goal of classroom management is to help the child become self-disciplined. This is viewed as an integral part of educating the young child.

Discipline at Torah Tots Preschool will take the form of positive classroom management.

The school recognizes that each child is a unique individual who behaves and learns in different ways.

The school strives to help the child become self-controlled, that is, to help him/her experience the intrinsic pleasure in appropriate behavior as opposed to “behaving” just to please adults.

The school encourages children to be independent and to solve their own problems. The teacher will lead the child to this point gradually, offering assistance and modeling along the way.

The school takes into consideration behavior that is typical and developmentally appropriate and provides developmentally appropriate equipment, materials and activities.

Expectations are stated in the positive form, such as “Please walk” versus “Don’t run”.

Faculty members use meaningful and descriptive praise.

Faculty members respect the child.

Faculty members do nothing to humiliate or shame the child.

Faculty members speak to the behavior, not the child; e.g., “Hitting hurts. Let’s find another way to solve this problem,” instead of “You are a bad girl for hitting.”

The child is allowed to experience the natural and logical consequences of his/her behavior whenever possible. For example: The natural consequence of playing too roughly with friends is that they will not want to play with you. The logical consequence of spilled paint is that you need to help clean it up. A natural consequence requires no outside involvement. A logical consequence needs an adult to follow through.

If necessary, in order to prevent a child from hurting himself or others or from doing damage to equipment, a teacher may calmly, but firmly, hold a child to prevent such harm. The child will be held as lovingly as possible with a helpful attitude rather than a punishing or admonishing one.

The child is allowed to express anger, frustration, sadness, hurt or fear, all of which are honest, healthy emotions.

Time out is used after other management techniques have been tried. During time out the child sits on a chair within sight of the teacher. The child may determine when he/she is ready to get up, or a short (2 or 3 minutes) time limit may be set. In some cases, a child will be asked to leave the classroom and sit in the office for a short time, always supervised.

No corporal (physical) punishment is used.

Children with consistent behavior difficulties are taken through the above procedures, and the parents are counseled. If after appropriate efforts have been made, the child does not appear to be benefiting from the program, we will communicate our concern to the

family and suggest that a more suitable educational setting be found. These actions are considered necessary when the health, safety or welfare of this child, and/or that of another child (or children) in the group is at risk.

20. WHAT TO WEAR TO SCHOOL

Each child must wear a uniform consisting of:

- School Shirt (long or short sleeve). Sweatshirts are also available. Shirts and Sweatshirts may be purchased at Campus Club, 2411 Tech Center Court, #107 (off Smoke Ranch between Tenaya and Buffalo). If you wish to call before you go to purchase uniform the phone number is 360-0555.
- Solid navy or black pants, shorts, skirts, jumpers (no washed-out denim)
- Boys are required to wear a Kippah or hat and encouraged to wear Tzitzis.
- All shoes must have backs. No slippers or clogs are allowed
- Socks are required.

Uniforms are mandatory Monday – Thursday. Friday is dress up day. Your child can dress up (not down) in honor of Shabbos and doesn't need to dress in the school uniform. However, we prefer that outfits have at least a short sleeve and not be sleeveless.

Think of your child's comfort, and provide simple and practical clothing that is free of complicated fastenings. Think of messy art materials and other messy activities, and provide clothing that is washable. Think of our playground, and provide clothing that is sturdy. Think of the changeable Las Vegas weather (and the fact that even though it may be cool and cloudy at 9:00 am, the sun might be bright and warm at 10:00 am, or vice versa) and dress your child accordingly. Also, think of our collection of unlabeled, unclaimed clothing, and put labels on all outer garments.

It is very important to leave a complete extra change of clothing at school. Each article of clothing should be clearly labeled and brought in a labeled bag.

Your child's class naps during the day. He/she will need a **small** sheet, blanket and pillow. These must be labeled and will be kept in a separate bag by your child's teacher. They will be sent home on Friday for washing (or sooner if necessary) and should be returned the following Monday.

21. LUNCH AND SNACK

Our school provides a hot lunch program, at an additional cost. Hot lunch menus cover a four week time period. Menus, with prices, are given out and posted on the Desert Torah Academy website at the beginning of each month. Hot lunches must be ordered and paid for ahead of time by filling out and returning the menu to the office. **Hot lunches may be purchased on the same day for \$5.00.** This program is a service provided for students in Nursery and Pre K only. Students in Toddlers 1 and 2 may not purchase hot lunch. The hot lunch program is optional.

Children who don't participate in the hot lunch program, should bring along a dairy or pareve lunch in a labeled lunch box/bag together with a snack, a drink and an ice pack if

needed. We ask that parents provide the children with lunches and snacks that conform to the laws of kashrus. All items sent to school should have an acceptable kosher symbol like an OU or OK. If you not certain about the kashrus of any item, please ask in the school office. Also, please do not send food that was purchased at not kosher restaurants even if it is not meat. Lunch and snack foods should also be low in sugar and high in nutrition. Also be sure to include any utensils, napkins etc that your child may need during lunch.

In order to provide an atmosphere that does not differentiate between families that have accessibility to kosher meat with those that may not, we require that no meat, meat products or poultry be brought into school regardless of their kashrus. Instant soups may be sent for lunch provided that they are **pareve only**. **Soups may not contain any meat, poultry or dairy products regardless of their kashrus.** Make small lunches and don't worry if your child doesn't finish everything. If your child is not eating correctly, you will be told immediately. It is very important that you inform your children that sharing food is not allowed in our school.

We will serve a light snack during the morning part of our day, which usually consists of crackers and/or fruit or vegetables. Also, throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to cook and bake with the class, or otherwise prepare special food at school for a snack or a meal.

22. 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 or in your car. If you have a book that you feel may be of interest to all the children, please check with the Director on the contents of the book, and we will be happy to share it with the class. Also, each class will set aside a specific day for "Show & Tell" where your child will have the opportunity to bring one of his/her toys and share it with the class.

NO GUNS, WAR TOYS OR OTHER TOYS OF DESTRUCTION

These items are taboo in our school.

23. FIRE AND EVACUATION DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis. The fire alarm (a high pitched tone accompanied by strobe lighting) is sounded and the children exit their classrooms in silent, single file. Each classroom has a fire escape route posted in a prominent place, indicating the exit route and assembly point. In-place-shelter drills are conducted. Torah Tots Preschool and Desert Torah Academy have a detailed evacuation plan and evacuation drills that also take place on a regular basis.

24. SAFETY PLAN

Senate bill 289 requires all Nevada Schools to have a safety plan. Parents who would like a copy of our plan should speak to the school secretary for a copy of the plan.

We have also established the Hebrew Academy of Huntington Beach, California as our out of state contact. Their phone number is 1-714-898-0051. If local phone numbers become jammed in a crisis, parents are to call the Hebrew Academy for an update on Torah Tots Preschool status.

25. PHOTOGRAPHS

Individual and class photographs are taken annually. Parents are given the opportunity to purchase photos but are under no obligation to do so.

26. PARENT SUPPORT & PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children. Specifically, this includes the responsibility: to establish a home environment, which encourages the moral values, ethics, social skills, self-discipline and commitment to learning, to be fully informed regarding all aspects of their children's development progress and where needed, to take and to support the appropriate remedial action, and to make every effort to establish and maintain a cooperative and mutually supportive relationship with the school.

Schools have the responsibility to guide, assist, support and complement parents in their efforts to meet these responsibilities. Of particular importance is the school's obligation to assist parents in gaining the information and insight necessary to make informed judgments regarding the religious and moral education of their children.

The partnership between home and school begins with enrollment and continues throughout a student's educational program. The PTO is an organization of parents that assist the school and sponsors school related activities. Parents are encouraged to join and actively participate in the PTO. Parent Teacher Organizations provide many opportunities for volunteer efforts. Monthly meetings also provide classes in Judaic studies.

Here are some ways parents can support the Torah Tots Preschool:

- Volunteer.
- Donate books, software, educational games and toys.
- Donate audio-visual equipment.
- Volunteer your expertise i.e., plumbing, electrical, etc.

- Volunteer to drive for a field trip.
- Encourage other families to enroll their sons and daughters.

27. THE DAILY PROGRAM

Our curriculum is all about S.P.I.C.E.S., the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual development of your child.

How do we cater to all these areas of development day in and day out? We follow a basic schedule that creates a balance of activities and we base our instructional strategy on the famous Jewish adage of “*Chanonch L’na’ar Al Pi Darko*” – “Educate the child according to his way.” His or Her way is best explained by the following motto:

**Tell Me, I Forget
Show Me, I Remember
Involve Me, I Understand**

Using Howard Gardner’s theory on multiple intelligences, we do not ask “How smart is a child?” but rather “How is a child smart?” Are they word smart? Number smart? Art smart? Audio smart? Visual smart?

At Torah Tots Preschool, we will not merely tell your child or show your child. We will actively involve your child in every aspect of his/her education. This is why you will not find us just telling your child about apples & honey, the shofar, the aleph bet or the ABC’s. What you will see is your child involved in manipulating, transforming objects to make real-life connections rather than memorizing facts he will quickly forget. Your child will be discovering bees making honey, feeling various ram’s horns, engaging in tactile and visual discrimination activities to differentiate letters and shapes, etc.

Our curriculum strives to create a balance between the Jewish calendar and the everyday lives and interests of the children. It is therefore designed around common monthly themes that web concepts from our Torah, values curriculum and holidays, exploring them in the various disciplines of art, math, science, reading, listening, music and drama.

Our curriculum offers a good balance of child-initiated and teacher –directed activities. We believe that when this balance is struck and when the various areas of the curriculum are truly developmentally appropriate, then children can begin the process of building a strong enthusiasm for learning, a love for being Jewish and the deep foundation for a positive Jewish identity which will serve them throughout their lives.

28. CURRICULUM

Torah Tots Preschool provides a curriculum that incorporates all areas of a child’s development (physical, emotional, social and cognitive) through an integrated approach.

The curriculum emphasizes learning as an interactive process. Teachers prepare the environment for children to learn through active exploration.

Opportunities are provided for children to choose from a variety of activities, materials and equipment with time to explore through discovery and involvement. Adults facilitate children's engagement with materials and activities and extend the children's learning by asking questions or making suggestions that stimulate children's thinking.

To promote the child's total development, the following activities will be included in his/her school experience:

Creative art	Cooking projects
Language experiences (oral & written)	Puppet play
Story time	Water/sand play
Dress-up	Housekeeping
Construction activities	Games
Block play	Creative movement
Outdoor play	Finger plays & rhymes
Manipulatives	Prewriting activities
Reading readiness activities	Playing with friends
Dramatic play	Playing with toys
Flannel board activities	Music and rhythms
Math activities	Puzzles
Books	Woodworking...and more

While participating in the above activities, each child will have opportunities to:

- Play with his/her peers and alone
- Share and take turns
- Explore and discover
- Learn new concepts, ideas and tasks
- Develop creativity
- Expand interests and abilities
- Learn about the world around him/her
- Develop gross and fine motor skills
- Learn and practice the social skills needed to make friends and play/work cooperatively
- Construct with materials that may otherwise be unavailable
- Use "messy" art materials
- Learn from others while broadening his/her horizons
- Develop a healthy sense of self-worth as well as respect for others.

DETAILED CURRICULUMS FOR THE DIFFERENT CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

TO YOU – OUR PARENTS

- We want you to know, to understand, and to discuss with us our goals.
- We want you to take an interest in what your child learns and creates by inquiring of them about their day.
- We want you to look often into our busy, happy, creative classrooms and see your child learn and play.
- We want you to realize the importance of what is being learned and the validity of that play.
- Parent and teacher together can help your child develop his or her full human potential.

HAVE A HAPPY YEAR AND WELCOME TO THE TORAH TOTS FAMILY!