

בית רבקה

Early Head Start Partnering with Families



...WHERE תורה AND מצוות COME TO LIFE.

בית רבקה

CAMPUS CHOMESH
470 LEFFERTS AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225
(718) 735-0770 ext: 1287

תשפ"ה

2024-2025

Dear Parents שיחיו,

We hope you are enjoying a healthy and pleasant summer, and are eagerly awaiting the upcoming school year תשפ"ה.

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

As you know, the Rebbe devoted countless שיחות to the importance of imbuing our children with a meaningful תורה and חסידישע education and raising them in accordance with תורת חב"ד.

Many guidelines about child development and age-appropriate programming were also outlined by הז"ל, and later on supported by secular research.

Our program at בית רבקה Early Head Start, the Rebbe's מוסד, is a blend of the highest educational standards outlined to us in תורה and תורת החסידות.

Based on the most famous adage חנוך לנער על פי דרכו - develop the child according to his own developmental stage, we will strive to engage your child in developmentally appropriate routines and experiences by creating a loving and responsive environment that will help her grow.

We will not merely tell your child, or show your child. We will involve your child in every aspect of her education. Teachers facilitate the development of emerging skills by providing a wide variety of appropriate materials, activity areas, manipulatives and other sensory play. The one to four ratio allows teachers to give your daughter individual attention and provide her with developmentally appropriate learning on her individual level. Toilet training usually occurs at this age. We take a relaxed approach and find that interest in participating with peers combined with positive reinforcement by adults is a sufficient motivator for most children.

The children will engage in music and movement activities to develop their sense of body awareness as well as their listening skills in a fun and creative way. Our two-year-olds will partake in activities that relate to healthy eating and learn new concepts and skills using developmentally appropriate toys and manipulatives.

Here is a sample of some of the routines and experiences that will be encouraged in your child's learning environment throughout the year.

Experiences	Routines
Playing with toys	Hello and good-bye song
Imitating & Pretending	Finding your cubby and putting away belongings
Acting out small pointers of the פרשה	Davening Circle
Living with the ימים טובים	Eating and meal times Making ברכות and discussing healthy food
Hearing stories of our רביים/ רבצין's. Each יום טוב we have a חסידישע and an interactive program.	Sleeping and nap times in a soothing manner
Enjoying stories and books	Diapering and toileting
Creating with art	Connecting with music and movement
Exploring sand and water	Tasting and preparing food
Outdoor Play	Engaging in sensory play

We will involve your child in her environment to actively engage in all these experiences as she begins to explore the world of פרשה, ימים טובים, and חסידישע ימים טובים.

Together with a robust team of professional educators, we strive to provide your child with a well-balanced curriculum, that will empower your child to truly internalize מצוות and תורה, commit to אהבת ישראל and moral values, and fully feel a sense of pride at being the רבי's child.

None of this is possible without your support and connection to us. We hope to establish with you a solid home-school connection so that your child's learning can be leveraged to its fullest.

We trust that this information will help you develop an understanding of our approach in nurturing your child to grow as a genuine בת ישראל and בת חב"ד, immersed in the wellsprings of תורה and חסידות.

Wishing you and your family a כתיבה וחתימה טובה.

Respectfully yours,

Chaye Sorah Tenenbaum

Policies and Procedures:

Arrival & Dismissal

School begins at 9:00 a.m. each day. Children can be dropped off beginning at 8:45 AM.

New for this year: Early Care and/or After Care is available for a fee. Early Care is 8:15-8:45 and After Care is from 3:00-4:00.

Please bring your daughter directly to her classroom. Strollers should be parked in the designated area only. Please note: we will not be using the Atrium for EHS drop-off.

Parents must sign their daughters in and out each day in the classroom using the teachers' iPad.

We must impress upon you the importance of having your child in school on time. Coming late causes a child to miss out on the excitement of a new day, and on the focused individual attention that she receives upon arrival.

Pick up and Drop off time is not PTA time. If you need to discuss anything with your daughter's teacher, please message her and arrange a time to speak at length.

Monday through Thursday, dismissal is at 3:00 PM from the classroom.

Dismissal on Friday is at 11:45-12:00 in the classroom.

Please remember that young children tend to get worried if their parents are late and other children have already left. PLEASE BE PROMPT. You must sign your child in and out every day when they are dropped off and picked up.

Attendance

A program must track attendance for each child. A program must implement a process to ensure children are safe when they do not arrive at school. If your child is unexpectedly absent a parent must contact the school office within one hour of program start time. Please do NOT text your child's teacher to notify of any unexpected absence. All calls must go through the office. This policy is to ensure the utmost safety of all children in our program.

Record of Child Care Arrangement

A legal document is given to parents at orientation regarding who will be dropping off/ picking up your child each day. Please write down who is authorized to pick up your daughter. If there is a change, you must send a written note or email of who will be picking up your child that day. You must call and send a note of the change.

Safety

We will be doing our utmost to implement safety rules and we are asking that you join us in this effort. These rules and precautions apply to children of all age groups. Please take a moment to review some of the points below with your child and remember the best lessons are taught by the examples we set.

Children should be brought to the classroom by parent or guardian. Parents who are picking up children should go directly to their child's classroom. All children should be escorted to and from the classroom by a parent or guardian. For the safety of your children please cooperate.

מצוה Notes

We encourage parents to send מצוה notes each day. It is nachas for the Morahs to see the children's face light up when the מצוה note is read. מצוה notes are a good tool to bridge the connection between home and school.

צדקה

One of the most beautiful מצוות that children develop in our Early Head Start right from the start is a feeling for the מצוה of צדקה. Along with a variety of hands-on individual and collective activities and projects, children's sense of sharing and doing חסד is reinforced by giving a penny every day. Please send in a penny or other change with your child. It is advised that you use masking tape to tape it onto your child's clothing.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are served daily. **Children are not allowed to bring lunch or snack from home:** The only exception will be with a Doctor's note clearly explaining the medical reason. If you want any changes to

your daughter's meals, please contact our Health Coordinator (Bryna Telsner) at extension 1356. We will not make any modifications without Bryna's clearance.

Birthdays

בית רבקה Preschool/Early Head Start is happy to inform parents that the Birthday Party policy meets the requests of parents and the approval of our Nutritionist.

Birthday Policy:

- **צדקה** for each child;
- one snack, i.e. mini cupcake, cookie;
- a drink – 100% fruit juice or water, or a fruit;
- a gift for the class;
- a gift for each child (optional)

Two weeks prior to your daughter's birthday, her teacher will call you to discuss the celebration and give you some suggestions for the class gift, i.e. puzzle, book, etc. A small gift for each child is optional. Please do not make any purchases prior to speaking to your daughter's Teacher.

Your daughter will be encouraged to share her **החלטה** with her class. Please help her prepare.

Your adherence to the new policy will allow us to encourage healthy eating habits in our classrooms, as we will be implementing these policies for **שבת** parties and 'פארבריינגענס'.

חסידישע פארברענגען'ס

We pride ourselves on our **פארבריינגענס**, rallies, and special programs for **חסידישע ימים טובים** and special days. We have interactive exhibits and games to engage each child during the programs. We give **צדקה**, sing **פסוקים** and make a "להיים" all together during the **פארבריינגען**.

שבת Party

שבת party is an integral part of our curriculum. Every teacher runs her **שבת** party in a unique way. The teacher will inform you of her preferred style of **שבת** party. If your daughter's teacher requests a snack, please do not send anything

homemade. If you know your child will be absent on her chosen week, please notify the teacher.

Clothing

בית רבקה takes pride in our high standard of **צניעות**. A **בית רבקה** girl should always be dressed in a way that is befitting a Bas Chabad. Once your daughter turns three, elbows, knees and collarbones should be covered at all times. Even if your daughter is not three, socks must be worn at all times.

Children develop a sensitivity for the beauty of **צניעות** at a young age, therefore to avoid mixed messages, school standards should be applied at home.

When entering the school building, we ask the parents to be respectful of the standards in Beis Rivkah. Parents are required to be dressed according to Halachic rulings.

- a) **Sheitel.**
- b) **Elbows, knees and collarbones should be completely covered.**
- c) **Pantyhose must be worn (no leggings)**
- d) **No gym clothes, only respectful attire.**
- e) **No flip flops.**
- f) **No slits.**
- g) **No tight-fitting clothing.**

Healthy Children

We take health very seriously, so please help us by only sending healthy children to school. If your child exhibits signs of cold, fever, pink eye, vomiting, diarrhea or the like, please keep your child home. **Children on prescribed antibiotics must wait a full 24 hours on antibiotics before returning to school!** It is for the health and safety of your child and all the children in the program. **If a child is in school with any of these symptoms**, you will be required to pick up your child. Outbreaks of diseases spread rapidly and therefore when a child exhibits any symptoms of being sick, the parent **MUST** be considerate of the other children in the class and only send their child when the symptoms are no longer there. For example, if your child vomits the night before, or in the early morning, please do not send your child to school that day until 24 hours pass before she is symptom free. Similarly, if you suspect your child has pinworms, please take her to the

doctor and treat her with the prescribed medication before sending her back to school. Pinworms is extremely contagious, and the school must be notified of each case. Please note that the NYC DOHMH keeps track of clusters of outbreaks in the community and calls for an explanation of why children that are sick are in school. Please note, every child attending בית רבקה Preschool must submit a current health form with a list of their immunizations. **All children entering the Preschool program are required to meet at least the minimum standards of immunizations in accordance with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene immunization schedule or have an approved (by a NYCDOHMH) medical exemption (NYS Public Health Law Section 2164). As of June 13, 2019, The DOHMH no longer accepts any RELIGIOUS exemptions. This policy comes directly from the NYC DOHMH. If there is any change in your child's health, please notify our Health Coordinator, Bryna at extension 1356.**

Flu Shot

According to NYC DOHMH guidelines, the Flu shot is mandatory for every student enrolled for the school year 2024-2025. The flu shot must be given prior to Dec 31, 2024. Please submit a written verification.

Medications

Based on NYC Department of Health regulations, בית רבקה Preschool does not administer any form of medication or vitamins. If warranted, an authorized family member may come into school to administer medication. Under these circumstances, written notification as to who will be administering the medication must be sent into school. No medication will be stored in school.

Allergies/ Medical Conditions

בית רבקה Preschool is a **NUT FREE ZONE**. Please do not send any snacks to school that contain peanuts, peanut butter or other nuts.

If your child has any special medical needs or allergies this must be brought to the attention of the teacher and the office. In addition, if any allergies or conditions develop throughout the year, the teacher and office must be informed in order to ensure the safety of your daughter. Please note that all medical conditions are kept confidential between the teacher and any Preschool Staff that we feel it is necessary to share the information with to keep your child safe. Please do not

send nebulizers, epi pens etc to school without first meeting with the teacher and principal to discuss its use. You must explain what are the symptoms that warrant it and how to use the equipment. If there is any change in your child's health, please notify our Health Coordinator, Bryna at extension 1356.

Accidents/ Emergencies

Although we work hard at preventing accidents, minor scrapes and bruises are normal childhood events and should be expected occasionally. For those times that your child may receive a bruise, First Aid will be administered. If it is minor parents will be notified via a note, while for more serious injuries, parents will be called.

Toileting

בית רבקה Early Head Start will be providing diapers and wipes for your child. We will take an active role in helping you toilet train your daughter at the appropriate time. Please let your daughter's Morahs know when you begin training at home.

Family Vacation

Please notify your child's teacher in advance if she will be going away for a few days or leaving early before a **יום טוב**, so that she can send home your child's projects.

It is important for the teacher to know if a parent will be going away so that she can give your child the extra attention she may require. Please leave emergency contact information with the teacher.

PTA

Parent- Teacher conferences are held once a year to discuss your child's progress. It is important that you make every effort to attend. If the teacher feels that your child needs a more comprehensive meeting, the principal will call you to schedule a meeting. This is done to ensure the best outcome for your daughter.

Nap Time

Nap time is an integral part of our routines in EHS. It is a quiet and soothing time for children to sleep and relax and recharge their batteries. Some children prefer to sleep in a stroller rather than on a cot. According to DOHMH a parent must sign a consent form if they want their child napping in the stroller.

School Readiness Goals

A copy of **בית רבקה** Early Head Start school readiness goals will be given out at Parent Orientation. These goals are oriented towards giving the children the tools they will need to be successful in their future school years. The goals are in five areas of learning:

1. social emotional development
2. physical development and health
3. approaches to learning
4. language and literacy
5. cognition and general knowledge.

School readiness goals are observable and measurable. Three times a year, we use a research-based assessment tool that will determine how your child is doing in each area. Our E.H.S. teachers work diligently to individualize their lessons for each child to enable them to make progress in their school readiness goals. Please feel free and provide your input. If you have any suggestions, please email Leah Deitsch at ldeitsch@bethrivkah.edu.

Family Engagement

It has been proven that children perform better on their school readiness goals when the learning is reinforced by parents at home. Therefore, please use the weekly newsletter as a springboard to reinforce themes being taught in school at home. It is helpful from time to time to please send in a **מצויה** note describing a family trip or activity that ties into the theme of the week in school.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to attend our programs. **בית רבקה** offers an informative podcast for parents and alumni. “Branches” is available via email and on streaming apps. We will be offering classes/training in:

- Understanding child and parent temperament
- Managing challenging behaviors
- Language and Literacy (importance of dialogue and reading to children)
- Stress Management
- Developmental Milestones
- Nutrition (Meal Planning)

Another source for supportive parenting training is Junior N'Shei. They can be reached at chjuniornshei@gmail.com

Disability Services Coordinator/ LEA Liaison

בית רבקה Early Headstart supports children with developmental concerns and disabilities together with their family. There is an LEA Liaison on site to help parents navigate the system of Early Intervention Services for infants and toddlers. Our LEA liaison is Bryna Telsner and she can be reached at extension 1356.

Volunteering

Parent volunteering is part of the Preschool philosophy. We encourage parents to share with their child's class. This could be reading a book, doing an arts and crafts project, describing your profession, or sharing your passion or talent with the children. Please be in touch with your child's teacher to schedule a visit. Each child will feel very special and also receive a small prize when her parent volunteers.

Cool Culture

It is a privilege for our school to receive Cool Culture cards. In order to keep the program, we encourage our parents to please use the cards and enjoy the excursions available. Please use the card responsibly and answer any surveys that are sent to you.

Professional Development

In a constant effort to uphold the highest standards of teaching and learning, our teaching staff members participate in various trainings throughout the school year. The first one will be a full day on January 22, 2025. There will be no school for students that day. Dates for future mandatory trainings will be announced with enough prior notice so parents can make arrangements for their child.

Transition to Head Start

בית רבקה Early Head Start prepares children to transition to the next program level (Preschool). We ensure that each child's relevant records are transferred from Early Head Start to Preschool or other placement (with written parental consent). We initiate a joint transition program where the Early Head Start teacher takes the children to visit a Preschool classroom. The Preschool teacher prepares a program and welcomes and helps them acclimate to the new environment.

Developmental progress of individual children is discussed with parents and future teachers. **בית רבקה** Early Head Start strives to develop parents' capacity to effectively communicate with future teachers and other school personnel.'

Social Media

Social media is a powerful communication tools that can impact **בית רבקה** Early Head Start's professional reputation. Please be mindful, respectful, and professional when using accessible online forums.

Mental Health Consultant

We are happy to announce that Ms. Sarie Korf will be our schools' Mental Health Consultant. She will be available via email to support the emotional wellbeing of our children and their families. Sarie will visit classrooms and guide teachers on how best to communicate with parents.

Parents' Checklist

Please bring the following items to school with you on **Tuesday, September 3rd, 2018** Orientation Meeting for Parents. Please set aside up to 1.5 hours for this meeting.

Orientation will be from 10:30-11:15 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Following that you will be given your child's placement and you can visit the classroom.

Please note that this program is for parents only

1. A Complete Change of Clothing

Please label each item of clothing by writing your child's name with a laundry marker or glue-on nametag. It should be stored in a labeled shoebox, or a plastic container. Clothing should include: undergarments, tights/socks, skirt/pants, and a shirt. Please make sure that the clothing you send is appropriate for the season.

2. A Long Smock

Please send a smock with sleeves or an old shirt that is labeled with your child's name.

3. A Recent Picture of Your Child

4. Family Photo

5. A Box of Tissues

6. Admission card – THE ORIENTATION PACKET INCLUDING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AND CLASSROOM WILL ONLY BE GIVEN IF YOU HAVE YOUR ADMISSION CARD.

PRESCHOOL EXTENSIONS

To reach Preschool office personnel during school hours,
please call 718-735-0770

Preschool Office

Preschool@bethrivkah.edu

Ext 1287

Bryna Telsner, Health Coordinator, LEA Liaison

BTelsner@bethrivkah.edu

Ext. 1356

Chaya Dina Lewin, CMS Director

CLewin@bethrivkah.edu

Ext. 1202

Sari Korf, Mental Health Consultant

SKorf@bethrivkah.edu

Eidle Sputz, Head of Campus Chomesh

ESputz@bethrivkah.edu

בית רבקה Early Head Start Calendar

תשפ"ה / 2024-2025

Sep 3	Tuesday	ל' אב	Parent Orientation
Sep 4	Wednesday	ר"ח אלול	Opening 1/2 day, no lunch, no buses
Sep 5	Thursday	ב' אלול	First full day
Oct 2-4	Wed - Fri	כ"ט אלול – ב' תשרי	No school – ראש השנה
Oct 11	Friday	ט' תשרי	No school – יום כיפור
Oct 16-27	Wed - Fri	י"ד תשרי - כ"ג תשרי	No school – סוכות
Oct 28	Monday	כ"ו תשרי	School resumes - Late Start 10:00 am
Dec 27-31	Fri - Tues	כ"ו - ל' כסלו	Chanukah Vacation
Jan 10	Friday	עשרה בטבת	עשרה בטבת - Friday Schedule
Jan 22	Wednesday	כ"ב טבת	Teacher Training Day – NO SCHOOL
Feb 13-17	Thurs -Mon	ט"ו-י"ט שבט	Mid-winter vacation
February 18	Tuesday	כ' שבט	School resumes
March 13	Thursday	י"א אדר	½ day Friday Schedule תענית אסתר
March 14	Friday	י"ד אדר	No school - פורים
Apr 7-21	Mon - Mon	ט' ניסן - כ"ג ניסן	No school - פסח
April 22	Tuesday	כ"ד ניסן	School resumes
May 16	Friday	ה"י אייר	Lag B'Omer Special Program
June 1-4	Sun - Wed	ה' סיון - ח' סיון	No school - שבועות
June 5	Thursday	ט' סיון	School resumes
June 25	Wednesday	כ"ט סיון	Half Day - Last Day for HS EHS - Full Day
June 26	Thursday	ל' סיון	Early Headstart - Last Full Day
June 27	Friday	ר"ח תמוז	School Closed
June 30-Aug 1			EHS Summer Session

**Looking forward to a year filled with nachas,
development and success!**



בית רבקה

EARLY HEAD START

If you have any further questions,
please contact our office at
(718) 735-0770 ext. 1287