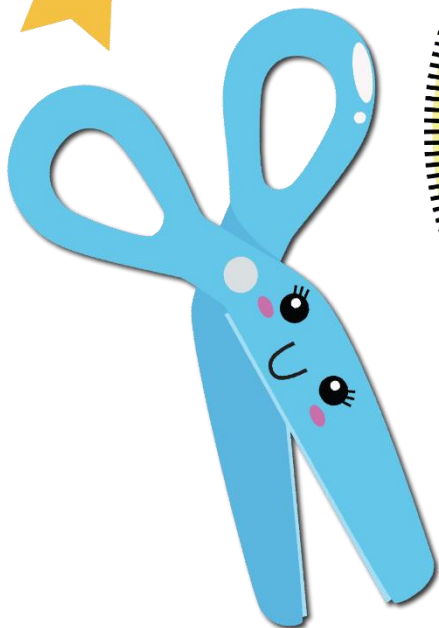




WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL





KETER PRESCHOOL ישיבת כתר תורה

THE STEPHANIE AINI EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

5 MERIDIAN ROAD | EATONTOWN, NJ 07724 | PHONE: (732)-935-1111 EXT X2 | KETERPRESCHOOL@GMAIL.COM

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your child to Keter Preschool. We hope that you share our enthusiasm for a brand-new school year! We look forward to working together with you to make this year a most memorable one for you and your child. We are confident that we will see much success and growth throughout the year.

Orientation will take place on Wednesday, September 6th. An invitation will be sent with more specific information. We are so excited to meet you and your child! We are even more excited to get to know your child and spend a wonderful year together!

Although your child may need time to adjust to his/her new school experience, please be assured that this is to be expected and that we are prepared and ready to comfort the children with warmth and understanding.

Our goal is to create a loving and secure environment that provides each child with maximum opportunities for learning and growth. Working hand-in-hand with you, the parents, will ensure a most wonderful and fulfilling year for the children. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Our Goals For this Year

The preschool years provide a fundamental foundation for learning and growth that the children will carry with them throughout life. Here at Keter, we strive to create an enriching environment filled with warmth. By following a “whole child approach” every aspect of development is focused on so that every area of the children’s growth is enhanced. Below we shared some of our goals. We strive to reach every child individually.

- To identify as a Ben Torah so that the children will develop an appreciation and pride for Torah and Mitzvot.
- To love, nurture and care for each child so that he or she can soar to great heights.
- To develop fine and gross motor skills.
- To improve cognitive and thinking skills.
- To develop phonemic awareness and reading readiness.
- To facilitate language skills by fostering communication, discussion and providing a constant listening ear.
- To instill self-confidence and an “I can do it” attitude.
- To encourage appropriate social interaction and establish friendships.

Communication

Parent/teacher communication is a very valuable and important tool that will ensure your child’s progress in all areas. The school sends important messages and updates through text and email. If you do not yet receive the preschool text, please call the Preschool office at 732-935-1111 ext. x2, to get signed up. If there is anything you would like to discuss we are always available. You

can feel free to leave a message at the Preschool office (732-935-1111 ext. x2) for us and we will try to return your call as soon as we can. Each week a schoolwide newsletter highlighting different aspects and events of our school will be sent home and emailed to you. Teachers will be sending a class newsletter at the end of each week to keep you up to date on what your child is learning. Please do not call or text teachers during school hours. All messages should be sent through the preschool office.

School Hours

Preschool drop off in the morning begins at 9:30. Class begins at 9:35. School hours are 9:30 until 2:30 and until 11:50 on Fridays. Afterschool program is from 2:30 until 3:15. Please be as prompt as possible with drop off and pick up. See the carpool procedure below.

Lunch and Snack

YKT offers a lunch and snack program. All students receive school snacks regardless of if they receive school lunch or not. Additional snacks from home should only be sent if absolutely necessary. Only healthy snacks will be allowed for example: fruits, vegetables etc. A lunch menu will be sent home at the beginning of each month. If your child would like to bring a snack from home for any reason, please coordinate that it is meat or dairy along with the school's menu. A lighter lunch is served on Fridays and other days with early dismissals.

Kashrut

Any dairy food including snacks brought to school must be *chalav yisrael*.

Allergies

Our classrooms are “nut and sesame free.” Food sent from home should not contain nuts or sesame. Food labels should be checked carefully. If your child is allergic to anything, please make sure to indicate it on your child’s getting to know me form and notify your child’s teacher at the start of the school year. Allergy alert signs will be hung in your child’s classroom.

Health and Safety

The following guidelines and precautions are put into place to ensure the highest level of safety in our school. We as a school will commit to keeping to the following guidelines to the best of our ability, however we will also need you as parents to adhere and educate your children about the importance of keeping to the standards as well.

Any child with a fever or illness may not come to school until cleared by a doctor. Water fountains will not be in use. Hand sanitizing and washing will be encouraged often. It is our goal to keep the building as clean and as sanitized as possible at all times. Any child who displays any symptoms of illness will be sent home immediately and asked to stay home until cleared by a doctor. We appreciate your help in these areas, may Hashem protect us all and may we hear of only בשורות טובות.

As part of our commitment to safety, we closely monitor and support the social interaction of the children. Middot tovot as well as expressing ourselves with words are a fundamental part of our curriculum. Any physical contact is strongly discouraged. In a case of severe or prolonged aggression (especially biting) a child may be asked to take a leave of absence at the school's discretion.

Emergency Contact

Every child is required to provide emergency contact information in case of an emergency. If you are planning to be away, please notify the office with the dates you will be away, new emergency contact number and information regarding who will be caring for your child.

Immunization Records

New Jersey law requires that children have immunizations up to date. Please bring a copy of your child's immunization records with you to orientation.

Lice

In order to ensure a lice free environment in our school we ask that every child should be checked before the start of the school year. In the event that a child travels out of the country for Yom Tov or vacation they should be checked by a professional before returning to school. Please have the child come with a signed note from the lice checker that the child is clear of nits or lice.

Dress-code

Parents are expected to dress appropriately as befitting for a Yeshiva setting at all times, even during carpool.

Clothing

Please send in a complete change of clothing usable in all weather. Please place it in a labeled shoe box size container or bag. When a change of clothing is sent home, please try to send a replacement as soon as possible. Please send a smock for painting.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a very exciting event at school. It's not only a time to celebrate a birthday but a special time to focus and celebrate the child. Please discuss with your child's teacher, when to send the treat to school. Every child is allowed to bring one item or treat to give out (for example cupcake, ice cream etc.). We have found that children are happy with less and party bags are not necessary at this age. As such it is our policy not to allow party bags to be given out.

Playdates

Playdates are a wonderful tool for children, and we encourage them strongly. However, all afterschool playdates must be reported through the Preschool office, in order to allow a child to go home with someone else. Notes will not be accepted. All calls must be called in before 1:30pm and before 11:00 on a Friday dismissal day. It is the parent's responsibility to speak to any parent/carpool driver who will or will not be driving your child

prior to carpool time. Teachers will not be allowed to send a child home with someone else unless they know about the arrangement. This arrangement ensures a most safe and efficient process for everyone.

Carpool Procedure

Carpool will take place at the front of the building through the black gate. Morning drop off starts at 9:30. The doors will not open until that time. No child may be dropped off earlier. No mother can drop off their child without handing them to a Morah. A Teacher will be waiting to take your child/carpool out of the car in the morning. We appreciate your patience. Afternoon pickup is at 2:30. For children attending the after-school program, dismissal is at 3:15. Teachers will bring your child/carpool to your car. Each carpool will be given a different carpool name or color to help with the pick-up process.

Parents should pull up all the way before loading or unloading the children. This is important to prevent a traffic build up. Extreme caution must be taken that the children are brought to the gate safely holding a hand of a teacher or parent. **No child should run to the gate unsupervised.** Of course, please make sure no children are walking near your car before you drive away.

If you need to come into the building for any reason, even for a short while, please park in the main parking lot and enter the building through the front main entrance. You will be given a carpool form to fill out.

Training

Children who are three years old need to be toilet trained before the school year begins.

Children who are trained during the school year can only return to school once they are completely trained. They must be able to use the bathroom independently and be accident free for three days. Please be in touch with your child's teacher before sending them to school trained.

Lost and Found

In order to minimize lost items, please make sure to label your child's items. Personal items and toys should not be sent to school. Common lost items are kippahs, sweatshirts, hair accessories. We will try our best to return what we can. Please feel free to check for your lost items in our lost and found. Any unclaimed items will be considered *hefker* after 30 days. Please also label any show and tell items sent. Aside from show and tell, other toys are better left at home.

Keriah

One of the main focuses in the kindergarten year is mastering keriah. The yeladim will be learning a new letter each week starting after Sukkot. In addition, they will be reviewing the letters cumulatively as the year goes on. Constant review at home and at school are an imperative part of the learning process. In addition to our classroom teachers, the yeladim will be practicing alef bet with our keriah Morah. She will be updating you with your child's progress as the year goes on.



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Preschool Calendar 2023-2024

September 6	Wednesday	Preschool Orientation
September 7	Thursday	First day of school – Friday dismissal*
September 11	Monday	First day of afterschool program
September 15	Friday	Erev Rosh Hashana – No sessions
September 18	Monday	Tzom Gedalya – Friday dismissal*
September 25	Monday	Yom Kippur – No sessions
September 28- October 9	Thursday - Monday	Sukkot – No sessions
November 7	Tuesday	Teachers In Service – No sessions
December 8-11	Friday - Monday	Hanukah Vacation – No sessions
December 22	Friday	Asara B'tebet – Regular Sessions
January 25-30	Thursday - Tuesday	Mid-Winter Vacation – No sessions
March 21	Thursday	Taanit Esther – Friday dismissal*
March 22-25	Friday - Monday	Purim– No sessions
April 17- May 1	Wednesday - Wednesday	Pesach Vacation – No sessions
June 11-14	Tuesday - Friday	Shabuot – No sessions
June 17	Monday	Pre-Nursery Graduation
June 18	Tuesday	Nursery Graduation
June 19	Wednesday	Kindergarten Graduation
June 20	Thursday	Last day of school – Friday dismissal*

* Fridays - 11:50 am dismissal