

Downtown Jewish Preschool

Meet & Greet Program

7:00 Socialize & Find a Seat

7:10 Welcome

Director Opening Remarks-Devorah Kaplan

7:20 Meet the Staff

- Security Guards-Frances & Rey
- Office-Lena Silverstein
- Office & Floaters-Chana & Michal
- SEB Director Fran Rubio-Katz

Specialists:

- Jordana Fane Siadman-OT/PT
- Miss D.-OT
- Melixsa-Speech

Enrichments:

- Yoga-Miss Briana
- Soccer-Super Soccer Stars
- Martial Arts-Mr. Ferrer
- Music-Miss Sue
- **NEW** Clay Atelier-Ruchama Rubin Lewis
- **NEW** Amazing Athletes-after school program

Teachers:

1. Explorers- Morah Chana
2. Investigators- Morah Lea & Morah Cendy
3. Innovators- Morah Chana & Morah Fanny
4. Researcher- Morah Fran, Morah Menucha, & Morah Michal

7:40 Updated Policies & Procedures

7:50 Group Activity

8:10 SEB Director Fran Rubio-Katz

8:30 Thank you for Joining us
Have a Great Night



Downtown Jewish Preschool



Where Nature & Nurture Harmonize

Judaism :

Rooted in Tradition, Growing with Joy

At our Jewish school, Judaism is the guiding thread that weaves through every aspect of our community and values. We proudly embrace our Jewish identity, celebrating and exploring the richness of Jewish holidays throughout the year. Each day, children recite blessings over their food and lift their voices in joyful prayer during circle time. We end each week with a special Shabbat celebration, complete with music, stories, and the delightful experience of baking challah together. Our mission is to instill in every child a deep pride in their Jewish heritage and a meaningful, lasting connection to Israel.



Safety :

Safety First, Always

At DJP, the safety and well-being of our children, staff, and families is our top priority. Our campus features an armed guard, secure perimeter, and reinforced doors and windows. All staff are trained in emergency procedures, CPR, and first aid. We also uphold clear health and wellness standards, ensuring every child arrives ready to thrive. Together, our school community creates a safe, nurturing space where everyone is supported and protected.



Development :

Supporting Every Child's Unique Journey

At DJP, our curriculum nurtures age-appropriate developments and skills across all areas of early childhood, including social-emotional growth, fine and gross motor skills, literacy, math, science, and the arts. Our teachers receive ongoing training to support each child's milestones, and families stay connected with regular progress updates throughout the year.



Reggio :

Nurturing Creativity and Confidence Through the Reggio Emilia Approach

Our school embraces the Reggio Emilia philosophy, an innovative approach to early childhood education from Italy. At its heart, this philosophy sees each child as a confident learner with endless potential. We celebrate the "100 languages of children," honor the environment as a vital "third teacher," and follow an emergent curriculum that grows from the children's own interests. With a focus on autonomy and creativity, our nurturing environment encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning.



Mindfulish :

Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds

A strong social-emotional foundation is key to early childhood success. Our SEB Director, Fran Rubio Katz, brings over 25 years of experience, guiding staff and children through the Mindfulish© approach—a blend of loving boundaries, mindful teaching, and brain-based tools. Through her expertise, we create a nurturing environment where children and families thrive.



CLAY ATTTELIER

Hi! My name is Ruchama

I'm so excited to be your children's clay instructor this year at DTP! I've been an educator for over 10 years, with a focus on early childhood education. I'm also a master clay builder, holding a degree in ceramics and glass from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Israel.

Clay is a wonderfully open-ended material that offers endless possibilities for little hands and growing minds. It encourages free imagination while strengthening fine motor skills in a fun and creative way. Everyone loves clay — I can't wait to play!

NEW



The Reggio Emilia approach values clay as a powerful tool for learning and development in children, recognizing its ability to foster a multitude of skills and expressions.

Here are some key benefits:

- **Sensory and fine motor development:** Clay's tactile nature engages multiple senses as children explore its texture, temperature, and malleability. Manipulating clay through actions like squeezing, pinching, poking, and rolling strengthens fine motor skills crucial for later tasks like writing, fastening clothes, and eating.
- **Creativity and imagination:** Clay's open-ended nature sparks creativity and imagination. There are no rules to follow, empowering children to bring their ideas to life, whether creating animals, food, or abstract shapes.
- **Emotional expression and self-regulation:** Clay provides a safe and engaging outlet for children to express emotions, even before developing strong verbal skills. Working with clay can also be a calming and therapeutic activity, helping children manage anxiety and improve emotional well-being.
- **Problem-solving and critical thinking:** As children experiment with shapes, sizes, and forms while working with clay, they develop problem-solving skills and learn through trial and error. Piling clay, for example, allows children to experiment with balance and stability, leading to creative solutions to building challenges.
- **Language and communication:** Clay activities can provide opportunities for storytelling and developing language and communication skills as children describe their creations or collaborate with peers.
- **Focus and attention span:** The detailed process of working with clay can help children develop a longer attention span as they become immersed in their creations.
- **Social collaboration:** Working with clay can be a social activity, encouraging children to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and learn from one another.

Reggio Emilia's influence:

The Reggio Emilia approach emphasizes providing children with an environment that inspires exploration and creativity. Clay, as an open-ended material, fits perfectly into this philosophy, inviting children to:

- **Explore and experiment freely:** Teachers, acting as facilitators, observe and support children's natural curiosity and engagement with clay, rather than directing or instructing their play.
- **Connect with the natural world:** As a naturally occurring substance, clay connects children to the natural world and allows them to explore its properties and characteristics.
- **Engage in documentation:** Teachers in Reggio Emilia settings document children's learning journeys through observations and their creations, showcasing the process and celebrating their growth

Self-Portraits

"A self-portrait is an intimate, bold declaration of identity. In their self-portraits, a child offers themselves as both subject and artist. When we look at their self-portrait, we see a child as they see themselves. The story of self-portrait work is a tender story to tell."

In Reggio preschools, self-portraits are far more than art projects; they are foundational tools for self-discovery, identity formation, and holistic development.

The practice reflects the Reggio Emilia philosophy of honoring the child's perspective and using art as a "language" to communicate their inner world.

Foundation of Identity and Self:

Self-portraiture is a traditional method in the Reggio approach for children to explore their developing sense of self.

Focus on uniqueness:

Children are encouraged to observe their physical features and recognize what makes them unique. This self-examination helps them identify their unique interests, feelings, and perspectives.

Insight into self-image:

The purpose is not to create a realistic likeness. The true objective is to gain insight into the child's "me-ness"—their internal perception of who they are. This was stated by Loris Malaguzzi, a founder of the Reggio approach.

Expressions of emotion:

Creating portraits is a powerful way for children to explore and express their emotions, developing their emotional literacy. A child might depict a "happy brain" or "sad hands" to express feelings.

Cultivates Cognitive and Developmental Skills:

Creating self-portraits, especially when revisited over time, provides insight into a child's overall development.

Observation and reflection:

Children are encouraged to engage in deep observation by looking in a mirror to see the features of their face, rather than simply drawing an abstract idea of a face. This reflection nurtures critical thinking and perceptual awareness.

Fine motor development:

Using tools such as markers, paint, or loose parts to capture the details of a face helps build fine motor skills essential for later writing.

Language and literacy:

As children work, they talk about their process and describe their features, developing their descriptive vocabulary. This bridges their understanding from the concrete image of a face to the abstract concept of the word "face".

Supports a Sense of Community:

The practice of self-portraits extends beyond individual discovery and helps to build a stronger classroom community.

Celebrating differences:

By honoring each other's unique qualities, children open the door to rich relationships and learning opportunities. The display of each child's work celebrates diversity within the group.

Shared reflection: Children are often invited to share their portraits and explain their process. This practice builds communication skills and fosters empathy as they hear their classmates' stories.

Promotes Confidence and Expression:

The Reggio process is less concerned with the final product and more with the child's ownership of their work and ideas.

Honoring children's voices:

When teachers document children's thoughts alongside their portraits, it reinforces the idea that their interpretations and experiences matter.

Empowering choices:

Deciding how to represent themselves empowers children as the creators of their own identity. This practice helps them feel confident and proud of their ideas.



Updated communication policies at DJP dated 8/21/2025

Nurturing Strong Partnerships: Our Communication Guidelines

Effective communication is the cornerstone of a successful preschool experience. At DJP, we believe in building strong partnerships with families to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. When we work together, we can create a nurturing environment where children thrive, both physically and emotionally.

To help us foster this collaboration and keep you informed, we're streamlining our communication channels into a consolidated communication platform.

School-Wide Announcements:

- We'll use e-mail and the Kaymbu app for important announcements, upcoming events, and school-wide information.
- Please make it a priority to check your e-mails and Kaymbu app regularly and respond promptly when necessary. Timely responses ensure you receive all vital updates and help us keep our records accurate.
- You will need to allow for notifications in the Kaymbu app

Quick Reminders:

- For quick reminders about special days, deadlines, or unforeseen schedule changes, we'll use the DJP Admin WhatsApp and Kaymbu announcements (Once the whole school is streamlined into Kaymbu will use Kaymbu only).

Child-Specific Communication:

- All communication regarding your child will be sent through the secure Kaymbu app.
- This includes: Daily notes (Explorers Investigators & Innovators), Incident reports, Requests for supplies. Any personal information that needs your attention
- The Kaymbu app also allows you to reply directly to messages, facilitating easy two-way communication with your child's teacher.
- For non-urgent messages, please allow up to 24 hours for a response.

Photos and TSG Documentations

- Daily photos will be posted on our private Facebook page
- Several times a year, you will receive a personalized portfolio, which is an assemblage of documentation that covers the 38 integral age-appropriate skills and developments.

Direct Contact with Teachers during school hours:

- If you need to speak with your child's teacher directly during school hours, please call the office.
- They will return your call during their designated nap time or break.
- Please note: To protect privacy and maintain appropriate professional boundaries, teachers' personal phone numbers will not be provided for communication purposes

Emergencies:

- In the event of an emergency, please call the school office directly or contact the Director immediately.

Parent Class Representatives:

- We would welcome one parent per class to be the designated neutral communication liaison between the school and class families.
- If you are interested in this position, please notify the Director.
- This position expectations will include being the appointed liaison regarding questions that concern the class, as well as being the representative for class parties, school-wide events, gifts for staff, and other PTO-type responsibilities. This position is voluntary, and the confidentiality of all student information is maintained.