

EARLY CHILDHOOD

GOALS

- to provide professional development specifically geared toward early childhood administrators and teachers
- to provide mentoring for early childhood directors
- to provide Judaic curriculum for early childhood programs

For more information about the early childhood program, please contact Elana Fertig at efertig@cojds.org
For more information about Morah's Place, please contact Hadassah Svei at morahsplace@gmail.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: As a school's entry point for the majority of its students, a solid and vibrant early childhood program is essential for the health of its enrollment. CoJDS continues to invest in promoting excellence in early childhood education to ensure that more Jewish children benefit from a Jewish education.

Participants at the CoJDS regional conferences in Las Vegas, Toronto and New Orleans benefited from sessions focused on early childhood. At our July 2018 Early Childhood Think Tank, over 30 early childhood directors from across the United States and Canada joined together for a day of learning and inspiration. Becky Udman shared how to implement "Conscious Discipline" into our schools, while encouraging and inspiring teachers to follow through. Many hands on and doable ideas were shared and everyone discussed how they can implement these ideas right away.

Mrs. Becky Udman of Dallas, TX, leads a workshop for EC educators in CoJDS office 07.18.18



Dear Elana,

I just want you to know a bit about the ripple effect your CoJDS workshops for aspiring preschool directors has begun to inspire- I saw firsthand what a difference the connection and support makes for directors and began reaching out and arranging some small monthly meetups.

Tonight we had 10 Chabad, mostly smaller, preschool directors participate (a few for the first time) and so many were saying how grateful they feel to be part of this "group"- it's wonderful they felt so supported by something that happened only thanks to your inspiration. I'm so not an "arranger" type of person, yet once the first few meetings happened the directors keep asking about the "next time we'll meet up" and talking about how much of a difference the support makes, I feel like it just needs to continue...

Thanks so much for inspiring connection and may the good vibes continue.

Devorah Leah Elishevitz

United Lubavitcher Yeshivoh, Brooklyn, NY

Dear Elana,

Thank you for all your help this past year. Starting a new job is always a little scary, but knowing that I had someone to talk to and run things by, made it less daunting. You always provided real ideas and feedback from your many years of personal experience. You have a real understanding of the ins and outs of running a preschool and shared those ideas with me. Now, a year later, as new situations come up, I think 'how would Elana handle this' and that usually gives me clarity to figure out how to handle any given situation.

Thanks for all your help and support over the past year,

AL

Queens, NY



Elana Fertig, CoJDS Early Childhood Coordinator, second from left at Summer Think Tank 07.18.18



National Preschool Directors Conference in CoJDS office, 07.18.18

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM: Preschool curriculum is almost universal as preschool teachers teach the *chagim* and topics of *Yahadut* to young children. Finding developmentally appropriate material to reinforce those concepts has always been a challenge. Enter MorahsPlace. MorahsPlace.com is designed to be the go-to website for teachers of Jewish preschool children everywhere. With just a few clicks, teachers are treated to a plethora of interesting, hands-on, engaging learning experiences to offer their young students. A year since its launch, MorahsPlace has grown and developed from the single *Chanukah* curriculum it offered in November of 2017. The site now features materials for the High Holidays, *Chanukah*, *Pesach* and *Shabbat* curricular units, each with 48 learning activities in the six basic preschool centers: Math, Literacy, Science & Sensory, Dramatic Play, Art and Blocks. Each activity is clearly broken down to enable teachers to prepare and implement the ideas easily. Activities list supplies needed, set-up directions, PDF downloads, and how-to-play instructions. SMART games are featured for SMART board instruction to reinforce literacy and math skills. Teachers enjoy the newest features on the site, such as STEM stamped activities and can browse the activity pages for those specifically marked as STEM reinforcement. For a preschool teacher, Morahsplace.com is like letting her students loose in a candy store. Stay tuned for more upcoming enriching units!



Hadassah Svei of Morahsplace.com



MORAHSPPLACE.COM

forty eight skill-based activities in each unit
 THE COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULAR SITE FOR THE CENTER-BASED PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

YAMIM NORAIM



CHANUKAH



PESACH



SHABBAT



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL INFO@MORAHSPPLACE.COM

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