



Schilit Nursery School HANDBOOK

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MISSION STATEMENT

B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School provides a stimulating, nurturing and supportive environment for young children ages 14 months–5 years of age and their families. Through a multi-faceted approach to learning, our program focuses on all aspects of a child's development—social, emotional, cognitive and physical—while respecting the individuality of each child. Inspired by a variety of teaching approaches and keeping current with changes in the early childhood world, our curriculum is influenced by the theories of Reggio Emilia, Constructivism, Piaget, Erikson, Gardner and Vygotsky.

At B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School, meaningful play is an essential part of our developmentally appropriate, high quality early childhood program. Engaging in activities centered on the child's own interests brings a natural motivation to learn. Fostering independence, curiosity, creativity, discovery, critical thinking and problem solving, children are guided by our skilled teachers to explore classroom materials, building knowledge through cooperation and the expression of their thoughts and ideas. Nurturing these skills, our children become confident, inquisitive and self-guided learners who are prepared for the next step of academic and social development.

Our school provides a warm and welcoming community for all families. We build lasting relationships with the greater B'nai Israel community, as well as introducing the traditions of Jewish identity and life-long learning.

PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to the B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School (BISNS). We are delighted that you have chosen to enroll your child/children in our school. We are very proud of our program and look forward to having your family become part of our BISNS family.

The philosophy of the B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School is to provide a caring, accepting atmosphere that promotes in children a love of learning and a desire to be successful in school, while concurrently developing the self-confidence necessary to meet new challenges. We are part of the Conservative Jewish movement and as such we work to develop positive feelings toward being Jewish. Jewish values, rituals, principles and traditions are carefully woven into daily classroom life. The celebration of Shabbat and holidays is integrated into the developmentally appropriate curriculum through literature, art, music, drama and movement. We believe that in order to achieve this goal, the climate of the school must be safe and secure both physically and psychologically. Our teaching staff is professionally trained and certified so as to ensure this goal.

Each child is important and must be valued as a special and unique individual. In our classrooms, each child must first feel secure, comfortable, important, and valued from the very first day that they step into the room. We stress cooperation, where the children can learn how to play and accomplish things together and where they experience being a necessary and contributing member of the group.

Self-esteem is vital for children to develop. Each child deserves to feel good about him or herself. Children who feel confident are capable of higher achievement and performance in all areas of their lives. We are setting the groundwork for that with our students.

A positive preschool experience will encourage the children to look forward to learning. We want every child to enjoy coming to school each day, to treasure the experiences they've had and to eagerly and excitedly anticipate exploring and learning more. We want each child to have the opportunity to grow at their own pace and to learn everything they can, each in their own distinctive way. They will always be encouraged to freely explore their classroom and their world.

Creating a classroom community where children feel protected and respected is the cornerstone of our program. As children develop warm, trusting relationships with teachers and peers they learn how to express their feelings, cooperate with others and solve problems. The close relationship between home and school becomes the source for enduring friendships and the foundation of community life.

HANDBOOK

ABSENTEE POLICY Please notify the school office (301-816-5578) if your child will be absent. If we know that a child will be absent, we can proceed with our daily routine.

ACCIDENTS An Incident Form will be sent home in the event of a minor cut or bump. If we consider it more than minor, you will be notified immediately by telephone. Emergency contact telephone numbers and cell phone numbers should be current so that we can notify you if your child becomes ill or is injured during the school day. It is important that you keep your cell phone turned on during school hours in case of emergency.

ACTIVITY FEE & SPECIAL EVENTS Each year our curriculum is enriched through many distinctive programs including in-school field trips, special projects and holiday programs through Story Tellers, Puppet Theatres, musical performances, science shows, Truck Day, Siyyum, publications and more. In order to aid us in planning these additional activities there is a yearly Activity Fee.

AFTERCARE Children's Choice enrichment (see below) is an option for an extended day until 2pm. If you require a longer day BISNS will continue our extended day partnership for the current school year with Academy Child Development Center, Inc., a state and nationally accredited program. Our award winning program and Academy will join together to offer our families the options of multiple programs through 6:00 p.m. for children 2–5 years of age. Additional registration is required.

ALLERGIES One of our Jewish traditions is the value of piku'ach nefesh loosely translated as "to save a life." Taking guidance from this value, in the case of supporting children with severe life threatening allergies, we ask for every parent's cooperation to help BISNS strive to be a "Peanut/Nut Free Zone." A Peanut/Nut Free Zone means no peanuts, peanut butter, or peanut or nut products, or foods containing peanuts or nuts, peanut oil, peanut flour, nut spreads or any tree nuts (i.e. pecans, pistachios, almonds, pine nuts, cashews, walnuts, hazel nuts, macadamia nuts and Brazil nuts). An alternative sandwich can be made using soy butter. Also, foods that have an allergen warning on their label such as "may contain traces of peanuts" or "processed in a plant that also processes nuts", or "manufactured on shared equipment" should not to the extent possible, be packed in your child's lunch or snack. Students in our school have had a variety of allergies. If your classroom needs to be aware of any additional dietary restrictions, you will be notified by the teacher. If your child has any allergy, you will need to complete Authorization to Administer Medication (MSDE OCC 1216), the back side of the Emergency Form (MSDE OCC 1214) and a MSDE Allergy Action Form. All allergies must be reviewed with the classroom teacher.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL All students are to be brought to and picked up from their classroom at the scheduled time. It is very important for your child's safety to sign your child (and any other children in your care) in and out of BISNS everyday. This simple procedure, required by MSDE regulations, helps us ensure that your child is accounted for in the event of an emergency. To sign your child in or out, sign your full name and time of drop off and pick up next to your child's name on the sheet posted in the hallway by the classroom door. Any deviations from the designated approvals for pick up will require written notification.

Establish a good bye routine and reassure your child that you will be back or name the persons that will be picking up. The core hours for school are 9:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; in addition, our PreK class meets Monday and Friday, 9:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday, 9:15 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

If you arrive after the school day has begun, please bring your child to the school office. If your child must leave early, please come to the school office and we will contact the classroom. These procedures are in place to avoid having children upset by late arrivals and early departures of fellow classmates as well as to prevent disruptions in the classroom routine.

If you find the need to bring your child to school before 9:15 a.m. please refer to [BEFORE CARE](#).

BACKPACKS Please provide a labeled backpack that is large enough for projects, etc. Check the backpacks daily. In your child's backpack in a plastic storage bag keep a complete change of clothing (and if necessary – diapers & wipes). No key chains, necklaces, etc. should dangle from the backpack—this could be potentially dangerous.

BEFORE CARE We offer Before Care early arrival for children that need supervision before school begins. Pre-registration is not required and the service can be used on an as-needed basis. For a reasonable fee of \$15 per morning children meet in the designated room from 7:30–9:15a.m. or a portion thereof. If you register your child for a full year (September–June) of Before Care there is a discounted rate. Full year registration is online.

BIRTHDAYS A birthday is a very special day in the life of a preschooler. Our students honor the birthday child by singing and celebrating. Families may wish to provide a special Kosher treat (please check with teacher regarding classroom allergies) for the occasion. Reminder – home baked goods cannot be shared with the class. We will distribute invitations ONLY if EVERY child in the class receives one and the party is not held on Shabbat or a Jewish holiday. When planning parties please remember that many B'nai Israel families cannot attend parties on Shabbat or Jewish holidays.

BITING We recognize that biting, while it may not be acceptable, is normal and natural for toddlers, and not unusual for our younger students. Biting frequently occurs in groups of children just on the verge of fluent language. Because biting is a part of the young child's normal developmental process, we take a proactive, rather than a reactive, approach. We structure the environment and schedule to reduce frustration and encourage pro-social behavior. The teachers will carefully observe the children at all times. The teachers will model gentle behavior and pro-social play. The teachers and director will monitor the frequency and severity of bites. If the biting persists, our next step is to have the teachers and administration meet with parents to work together to find strategies to help the child who is biting work through this phase. Biting can be of concern to parents, but is considered a normal part of most children's development, and we ask you to trust that each biting incident will be handled in a developmentally appropriate and professional manner.

BOOK FAIR Our Usborne Book Fair is held in the Fall. There are wonderful quality educational books that will be on display and available for purchase.

CALENDAR The school calendar is posted in the FILES section of the school Shutterfly Share Site <https://bisns20182019.shutterfly.com/>. Dates and events are subject to change. Updates are posted on the Shutterfly calendar and in Nursery News.

CAMP KATAN The school year can be extended with participation at our summer program, Camp Katan, specifically designed for children ages two through five. Developmentally appropriate activities are structured around different weekly themes. Each day features a variety of art, games, music and outdoors. Waterplay includes sprinkler fun and water tables. Special events such as musical performances, moon bounce, pizza parties and more are highlights of our summer.

CARPPOOL AUTHORIZATION Please complete the posted classroom chart indicating people authorized to pick up your child. Any deviations from the posted information must be made in writing. BISNS staff will ask for photo identification from pick-up people whom they do not recognize.

CHALLAH Bring the flavor of Shabbat into your home by ordering challah and challah rolls baked fresh and delivered to the school. Order online using Chaverware. Please pick up your challah from the table in front of the Education Office on Friday morning.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS (CDC) We recognize that early detection of speech, language and developmental delays in young children are vital. We feel very fortunate to have established a partnership with CDC (Child Development Consultants). Their staff of speech, occupational and behavioral therapists will work with classroom teachers and parents to develop strategies for student's classroom success.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE This optional enrichment program is held M-Tu-W-Th-F from 12:30-2pm for children in our three-year-old and PreK classes. Sessions last about 10 weeks. Topics may include: cooking, science, creative arts, movement, gymnastics, soccer, etc. 3-Day-2 and 5-Day-2 students can participate in Children's Choice on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

CLASS PLACEMENT The staff of B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School spends much time and thought in your child's classroom placement. We observe the ebb and flow of relationships, play styles, differing temperaments in both group and individual dynamics. We carefully weigh personalities, gender and combinations of interactions among various children. We will place each child in a nurturing and supportive classroom environment to optimally facilitate his/her growth and development. Please trust that we make all placements in the best interests of the individual child, as well as the class as a whole.

CLOTHING Please keep a complete set of labeled clothing (underwear, socks, pants and shirt) in his/her backpack in the event that his/her clothing needs to be changed during the day. On a daily basis clothing should be comfortable and allow for independent dressing. Shoes should be tie/velcro and not clogs, backless, sandals, Crocs, etc. due to safety concerns. Remember that art projects can get messy, so please don't dress children in fancy clothes.

COMMUNICATION Communication between home and school is important to us. BISNS uses a variety of means to communicate with our families. Peek at the Week is a brief summary of classroom events which are planned for the next week, as well as special upcoming events and dates. Shutterfly Share Sites are used for photo sharing and file postings. The B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery News will be posted online. This newsletter will keep you informed of all dates, programming, holidays, "All in the Family", directory updates, etc. Nursery News is provided to complement the Peek at the Week. In addition, there will be occasional notes and reminders, so please check both your child's backpack daily as well as online. Our school listserv BISNS@yahooogroups.com is another communication method. We are very mindful of security within the internet. We ask you to please not share links (photos, etc) that teachers/other classroom parents may send you. We want to keep all of our information secure and private within our school community.

DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT It is our goal to help children develop the conflict-resolution and self-regulation skills they need to function effectively. When dealing with conflict, we always try to keep the child's developmental characteristics in mind. We foster these skills through modeling, facilitation, conversation, redirection and reflection always demonstrating respect for the child as a valued member of our preschool community. Preschoolers are working towards independence and control. We clearly and consistently set limits that ensure the safety and wellbeing of each child. We acknowledge and talk about what each child is feeling and engage the children as active participants in the problem-solving process; one that corrects not punishes. The limits we set and expectations we have for our children respect the ages and abilities of the children. There are occasions when our best efforts are not successful in resolving an issue. Sometimes a formal parent-teacher conference will be necessary to discuss the situation and work on alternatives that may help in the successful resolution. Any discussions with staff will be strictly confidential. If it is determined that our program cannot accommodate the special needs of a child, we will work with the family to find a more appropriate placement.

DONATION B'nai Israel Congregation has established funds and endowments for those that wish to make a donation in honor of a birth, birthday, anniversary, or other event, including get-well wishes, remembrance of a yahrtzeit, or sympathy on a loss. If you wish we ask that you kindly consider the Nursery School PTA Fund. Contributions are accepted online or a form may be obtained from the synagogue main office. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION For your child's safety, it is critical that you keep emergency contact names and numbers up-to-date with at least two additional names and phone numbers. If your child needs you, we want to be able to contact you or your designated emergency contact as soon as possible. Any day that your child will not be in school, please call us. We worry when we don't see your child's smiling face.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS We conduct evacuation drills, lock down drills, shelter in place and tornado drills to support the children in understanding and remembering what to do in case of an actual emergency. During a drill, the teachers proceed as if it is a real emergency. We help the children to quickly and quietly follow the directions. After the drill, we emphasize the "practice" nature of the drill and acknowledge the children's efforts in learning how to stay safe.

EXTENDED DAY BISNS has extended day options Before and After the core hours of the school. Starting at 7:30 a.m. your child can attend Before Care. After school from 12:30–2:00 p.m. Children's Choice enrichment classes are offered. If you require a longer day up to 6:00pm Academy After Care is available. These options are described in this handbook.

FAMILY FUN EVENT Family Fun Night is great way to end the school year! It is a night filled with fun entertainment and dinner. This evening in May is enjoyed by the whole family!

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT We strive to make BISNS welcoming to both children and parents. Your comfort in the program is an essential factor in your child’s success at school. Please know that your comments, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Children adore it when family members come to “their” classroom. It’s important, though, that you realize that your child may act a little possessive or clingy when their parent is at school. Don’t worry – this is very typical. There are opportunities to be a Room Parent, join the Nursery School Parent Association, chair an event, help at school programs or be a substitute teacher. You can come in and talk about something related to your job or hobby, or help with a holiday celebration. We look forward to sharing many Shabbatot at school with our families.

FRUIT FRIEND Once a week the daily snack will be fruit that was provided by the “Fruit Friend”. We are asking that the Fruit Friend bring in fresh fruit, canned fruit, applesauce, fruit cup or dried fruit for the class snack. Local grocers and big box stores sell packages of sliced apples, seedless grapes, dried mangos, mini fruit cups/applesauce, and fruit crisps. All packaged fruits must be Kosher and nut/trans fat free. Discuss details (allergies and sign up) with the classroom teacher.

HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS (HWT) Students in our PreK classes will be introduced to the HWT curriculum that uses multi-sensory techniques to help students develop fine motor skills to improve and reinforce pencil grip, letter formation as well as letter and sound recognition.

HARRIS TEETER Attention Harris Teeter customers...at no cost to the customer you can support our school. Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to BISNS using our TIE Account number -1506. If enough people shop at Harris Teeter a donation will be made to our nursery school. You can link at the store, by contacting the school office or by registering online. We appreciate your support and that of your friends and relatives.

HEALTH FORMS All students must have an annual Health Inventory and Immunization Records (MSDE OCC 1215), on file before/on the first day of class. If applicable Medication Administration Authorization (MSDE OCC 1216) and Allergy Action Plans may be required.

HOT LUNCH Our kosher, nut-free Hot Lunch option is available most Fridays. The entrées may include whole wheat pizza, whole wheat macaroni and cheese and cheese quesadilla accompanied by veggies, fruit and dessert. Reservations are made through ChaverWeb twice during the year.

ILLNESS We are concerned about the health of every child in our program. We implement good hygiene practices, including hand washing procedures for our staff and students. We do our best to prevent or contain the spread of contagious diseases. A sick or overly tired child has a difficult time learning.

Remember that our days are full and active. Please keep a sick child at home. This protects the health of your child and other students and teachers. In the event that your child becomes sick at school, we will call you to come and pick up your child. If you are unreachable, we will use emergency phone numbers as listed on your child’s Emergency Form (OCC 1214).

Attendance is important for your children but a child should stay home when he/she is ill or has any of the following symptoms:

- communicable disease
- diarrhea
- earache, toothache
- conjunctivitis (pink eye), inflamed or swollen eyes
- fever 99.2 degrees or over
- headache or stiff neck
- lice
- red or swollen joints
- nausea (may be a symptom of strep throat)
- vomiting (another symptom of strep)
- sore throat
- stuffy, runny nose that is thick and/or not clear
- constant coughing
- skin rash or sores
- severe constipation (cramping)
- unable to move about due to injury such as broken leg, sprained ankle

A child may return to school when:

- no fever present for at least 24 hours
- diarrhea, vomiting cleared for at least 24 hours
- antibiotics (if prescribed) have been used for a full 24 hours
- frequent coughing, excessive nasal discharge resolved
- pain (earache, cramps, headache, etc) resolved
- mood, appetite, behavior and activity are again normal

Please notify the school of any communicable disease (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, head lice, ringworm, chicken pox, fifth disease, H1N1, etc.) so we can protect children as well as mothers in early stages of pregnancy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- When Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are closed for the day due to inclement weather conditions (ex. snow), our school follows MCPS closings for the first two days of each weather event. BISNS will make an independent decision for subsequent days.
- If MCPS have a delayed opening, our classes will begin at the regular 9:15 a.m time. There will be no Before Care. Tikvah Twos, Toddler Time and Play at Bnai will be held.
- If MCPS are dismissed early, our school will dismiss as quickly as possible and all BISNS programs after 12:30 p.m. are cancelled.
- If MCPS are not in session our school closings will be based on the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School announcement and (if possible) posted on the BISNS listserv and recorded on the school voice mail (301- 816-5578).

Students enrolled in Academy@BISNS will receive a supplemental closing policy.

Please listen for the MCPS school-closing announcement on local television and radio or register with ALERT MONTGOMERY for email/text messages. Our school will not be announced separately. When possible, the BISNS voice mail message, the synagogue web site, and BISNS listserv will reflect closings and delayed openings. However, power outages are not unusual in Montgomery County and can limit our capacity to change voice mail and/or send out email.

ISRAEL FUN DAY Israel Fun Day is a celebration of Israel organized by BISNS staff to teach our children about locations in Israel and the different aspects of Israeli culture.

KOSHER GUIDELINES In accordance with our implementation of Jewish dietary laws, all foods eaten during the school day must be either dairy or parve. This means that all meat, poultry, shellfish, and items containing animal products such as animal shortening or gelatin are not permitted. Eggs and fish (fish with fins and scales) such as tuna and salmon are acceptable. All foods sent to be shared must follow this policy as well. For packaged foods, if you are not sure if something meets our kashrut guidelines, look for one of the following hekshers (certified kosher symbols) on the packaging:

LABEL Label everything - coats, backpacks, lunchboxes, Show&Tell, boots, hats, etc. Labeling helps prevent loss of items and confusion during the day. Order Mabels Labels at <https://www.mabelsfundraising.com/c/11605>. On the home page in the top right select "Support a Fundraiser" and then use the drop down menu to choose Bnai Israel Schilit Nursery School (Rockville). Thank you.

LICE Head lice exist wherever there are children and can readily spread in a group situation unless proper measures are taken. Students can return to school 24 hours after head lice treatment providing no nits remain. B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School staff or representative will check the child's head before the student can return to the classroom.

LICENSING & REGULATIONS BISNS is a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) licensed Child Care program. We also have a Private Educational Institution (PEI) license from Montgomery County Health and Human Services. As such, we are required to follow all county and state mandated requirements for staff qualifications, health and safety.

LISTSERV Each student must have at least one parent on our Nursery school email group, BISNS@yahoogroups.com. Send an email stating your child's name and class to nancyg@bnaiisraelcong.org if you are not yet on the listserv. We will utilize the listserv to communicate with all families. Please do not post messages on Shabbat, Jewish holidays or for solicitations of funds. You can search old posts through the Yahoo website. Also, activities (such as sports and ballet) held off-site that coincide with the school day including our Children's Choice enrichment should not be posted.

LUNCH Children eat lunch together in their morning classrooms. We recommend an insulated lunch box and ice pack to keep food fresh. Our nursery school observes the laws of kashrut. Therefore, your child's lunch should be dairy or parve; no meat or poultry, even if it is Kosher is permitted. Remember to include a beverage and necessary utensils (napkins, forks, spoons, straws, etc). If lunch is forgotten at home, a bag lunch will be available for the nominal fee of \$5 after contacting the BISNS office.

MAHJONG MANIA BISNS parents deserve a night out! Join us for a kid-free night out to hang out with friends. This is a great event for something social, fun, and casual. Both experienced and new mahjong players are welcome.

MEDICATION If it is necessary to administer medication (ie. EpiPen) for a child written permission with full instructions from the physician and parent is required by completing Authorization to Administer Medication (MSDE OCC 1216) as well as the back side of the Emergency Form (MSDE OCC 1214). If the medication relates to an allergy, an ALLERGY ACTION PLAN must also be submitted. All medications are kept in the Assistant Director's office.

MISHPACHA L'MISHPACHA This well received program was begun to link a current family with a new family as a means of welcoming them to our school and easing their transition into our program. Lasting friendships begin with Mishpacha l'Mishpacha pairings.

NURSERY SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION (NSPA) Our Nursery School Parent Association is a great way to become involved in your child's first school experience. Any parent of a child enrolled in BISNS is automatically a member of the NSPA. This year the Association is led by Schilit Nursery School parents Erin Willcher and Lisa Aleskow. All parents are encouraged volunteer for one or more school events.

OUTDOOR PLAY We plan to take our children outside daily, unless the weather is inclement. Inclement weather includes rain, heavy snow, gusting winds or extreme heat. The wind chill factor and air quality will be taken into consideration. With this policy in mind, please make sure that you send in appropriate seasonal clothing with your child; a warm coat, gloves or mittens, a hat and boots for when it is snowy in winter, and t-shirt, shorts and a water bottle in summer. For safety, rubber soled shoes are the best footwear.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION We prefer that all discussions about your child are private and not held in front of others. Please feel free to call the teacher, send an email or send in a written note. Individual conferences will be held in January. We appreciate prompt notification of any change in home address/telephone number, emergency contact, etc. We also wish to be notified of any birth or death in the family.

PHOTOS Our teachers take photos daily and will post these on SHUTTERFLY. We ask that you be mindful of online posting and sharing of pictures that include other children. Some parents have strong feelings about the use of photos of their children. Please read the Media Authorization Information posted on Shutterfly.

PLAY AT BNAI We offer a parent/adult and baby group for infants thru children up to 15 months. This group is designed for adults and babies to get out and about, play, socialize, share conversations and experiences and best of all... grow together!

PLAYROOM Our indoor playroom in Goodman Hall is outfitted with a variety of climbing toys, ride-on vehicles and tumbling mats. Our afternoon programs use the playroom (and playground) until 2:00 p.m. daily. Just a reminder—no food is permitted in Goodman Assembly Hall due to allergies and cleanliness.

PURIM FUN DAY Purim Fun Day is a preschool appropriate celebration with carnival-style activities and games. Children attend dressed in Purim costumes. The event is organized by our parents and BISNS staff. Please volunteer!

SCREEN TIME The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has recommended that parents and caregivers minimize the amount of screen time for children. Meaningful interaction with technology and media can offer opportunities for children to explore worlds they might otherwise be unable to experience. Therefore, on rare occasions our students may view short (less than 30 minutes) educational/holiday media through computers, DVDs or tablets. Screen time will not get in the way of exploring, playing, and interacting with others, which encourages learning and healthy physical and social development.

SECULAR HOLIDAYS Secular holidays, such as Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Presidents' Day, may be observed in the classroom. We do not observe Halloween, Valentine's Day or Easter and do not distribute cards, candy, etc.

SECURITY The safety of our children, families and staff is a priority. Full-time security personnel will be stationed at the Lenkin Education and Activities Center entrance to the synagogue. This is the only door that is available to anyone entering and exiting the building. Specific security issues should be discussed with the B'nai Israel Congregation, Executive Director.

SHABBAT *Ta'am Shel Shabbat* – A Taste of Shabbat. The last day of the week is always a special day. The students recite the traditional Hebrew blessings for lighting the candles, drinking juice and eating challah. Family participation is welcomed, as are visits from the clergy. We encourage the children to bring "tzedakah". Families are encouraged to come to B'nai Israel on Saturday morning for Tot Shabbat, a preschool appropriate Shabbat morning service (details in the Scroll).

SHABBAT SERVICE AND DINNER Our Shabbat services and dinners are a great way for families of specified age groups to share Shabbat with one another. November 16th is designated for our PreK students, February 1st is for 3s and March 8th is 2s, Tikvah Twos, Toddler Time and Play at Bnai. The Shabbat service and dinner is fun for the whole family.

SHUTTERFLY We utilize SHUTTERFLY SHARE SITES for photos and other communication. You will be a member of the school Share Site <https://bisns20182019.shutterfly.com/> and the individual class(es) Share Site.

SIYYUM The *Siyyum* is our special ceremony, celebration and luncheon for our PreK students and their families to mark the end of the school year. *Siyyum* is Hebrew for completion, and is the traditional term for a celebration that marks the end of a period of study.

SOCIALIZATION The biggest, most important "work" that any young child can do is to PLAY. Childhood is the time when social skills are learned, refined, and defined. Children need guidance, encouragement and praise in their social interactions. Respect, fairness, sharing and cooperation can be taught. When to give in and when to stand your ground, how to express feelings so that they are understood and accepted by others, being sensitive to the needs and feelings of others – all these are just some of what is going on under what looks like "play." We are always watching and guiding the children, even during unstructured playtime, praising and encouraging behaviors that are productive and socially acceptable.

SPECIALISTS In addition to our clergy and synagogue staff participation our program is supplemented by several specialists who enrich our curriculum.

STAFF The teaching staff is the foundation of a quality nursery school program. For this reason, we maintain high standards. Our teachers are well-versed in child development, both by educational training and relevant experience. Their hiring is reflective of their love of children and commitment to introducing children to a supportive, creative Jewish learning environment. Our teachers support learning and exploration in the classroom by planning age appropriate developmental activities, taking cues from the progress and interests of the children. Our teachers continue to participate in ongoing professional development keeping current in early childhood education and work to provide quality experiences for children. We are extremely proud of the high retention rate of our staff.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL Encourage your friends and family to participate, too. Support BISNS at no cost to you by linking your Harris Teeter VIC grocery card to TIE school 1506. Link online, at the store or by calling the school office.

Mabel's Labels (<https://www.mabelsfundraising.com/c/11605>) carries awesome colorful, indestructible, easy-to-use labels. They are dishwasher, microwave, and laundry safe labels that can be attached to practically anything you don't want to lose.

SYNAGOGUE COMMUNITY We are fortunate to be a part of B'nai Israel Congregation. The clergy and administrative staff are familiar faces to our children. Rabbi Safra and Rabbi Berkowitz visit with our students. Cantor Josh and Cantor Ilana share their love of Jewish music with the students. The co-chairs of the Nursery School Parent Association are part of the Board of Governors of B'nai Israel.

TODDLER TIME Meeting once a week this class is geared towards children ages 14–24 months, who attend with an adult. Through a balance of structured and unstructured activities they learn to play cooperatively and independently. Encourage your friends and neighbors to register with you.

TOILET TRAINING/BATHROOM We recognize that the toilet training process may be exciting and challenging for both children and parents. At BISNS, we are committed to facilitating each stage of your child's growth and development with a positive attitude and approach. If you are helping your child at home with this developmental task, inform the teacher so we can assist your child while in school. Please have reasonable expectations for staff. A child who is ready must possess both emotional readiness and physical readiness. Readiness means that your child will initiate needing to use the toilet and is aware of the urge to go.

Your child will be offered several opportunities to use the bathroom. Children will be encouraged to be self-sufficient as much as possible, therefore when your child begins this process avoid tight fitting clothing, buckles, zippers, overalls or suspenders. Always keep extra clothing in your child's backpack. Lastly, always take your child to the bathroom before dropping them off at their classroom.

TRUCK DAY This is a kid favorite! Imagine a parking lot filled with dump trucks, fire engines, ambulances, 18-wheelers, ride-on buses, school buses, police motorcycles, RVs', and of course the ice cream truck! This annual year end event is held during school hours.

VISITORS Due to security and liability, there will be no visitors allowed in the classroom without the consent of the Nursery School Director. Siblings who are not enrolled in the Schilit Nursery School will not be allowed to stay in school without a parent.