



Darchei Noam

MONTESSORI

A division of The Center for Innovative Jewish Learning

Family Handbook Toddler & Primary Division

Welcome to Darchei Noam Montessori!

Darchei Noam Montessori offers a safe & happy Torah-centered environment where every child succeeds at their own pace, instilling a life-long love of learning. We are a Torah school that uses integrated learning to create genuine, internalized Yiddishkeit.

Our classroom is designed to be known as a 'Children's House'. It is a place that the children can feel belongs to them. In this arrangement, they will learn the concepts of sharing, building friendships, respect and self confidence in a strong and yet natural way. As a parent of a Darchei Noam student, you have the assurance that your child is in an environment full of love, Torah, and positive energy.

Through use of the many materials children are able to build confidence, independence and a healthy self-motivation to continue to learn and grow. Throughout the day children are met with realistic challenges that encourage thought, problem solving, social interaction and growth.

The teachers in the room stand more in a role of 'directress'; gently guiding each child on the path in which they are comfortable.

Our vision is to create a community within the room amongst the teachers and children, developing a sense of respect and responsibility. With this in place and continuing to grow, children can flourish as they find a place for themselves in this world in a way that is comfortable and nurturing. Utilizing these "community skills", our children can directly change the world as they emerge with these qualities to build communities across the globe.

We are proud to be a published Maryland Excels participant. This program helps stay connected to our State resources and requirements, keep up with our curriculum, gain teacher education and many other wonderful perks. Please see the tuition section for other benefits of being a part of the Maryland Excels Program.

Darchei Noam Montessori admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school and the school does not discriminate on the basis of race in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other schooladministered programs. Race in this definition includes color and national or ethnic origin.

Curriculum

The children are introduced to a broad curriculum through interactive, hands-on materials. Children are free to nurture their innate curiosity about the world while mastering the

skills and lessons needed as a foundation for their future learning. The classroom is alive with opportunities for the children to explore letter recognition and reading in both aleph bais and english, math, development of the senses, daily living skills, geography, art and science. In addition, the weekly parsha and yomim tovim are introduced and experienced through circle-time activities and rich, multi-sensory learning.

Ages

Our Toddler Program is designed to serve children ages two to three years. Children in the Toddler Program are developing and growing in tremendous ways. Our environment offers a safe and enjoyable space for our students to develop their personalities, enhance their mobility and work on their gross and fine motor skills.

Children in the Toddler Program do not need to be toilet trained.

Our Primary Program is designed to serve children in the preschool years, including Kindergarten/Pre-1A; ages three to six years. Following the deadlines of the Maryland State Department of Education the deadline for children turning three years is September first. Please understand that all children entering the program will attend an interview and orientation to determine if this program is the right fit.

While the Primary division curriculum is designed for children ages 3-6 years, some children enter the developmental stage where they benefit from the curriculum as early as 2.5 years. Some of the ways that we can observe students that are ready for the Primary curriculum include the following:

Child will gain focus on using specific materials

Child will have interest in using materials rather than just finding them

Child will have the ability to join in large group activities and follow along

We want to be sure that we are providing your child with the best environment to meet his/her needs. During the first two weeks we will be closely observing to ensure that our school is indeed a proper fit. We'll be in close communication during those two weeks in an effort to attain a positive result. Near the end of the two week trial we may decide as a team (school and home) to add an additional week or two to see more progress. If, however, your child is not yet ready for the program, Darchei Noam will provide suggestions for alternative schools or playgroups. When your child turns three or exhibits the characteristics that tell us they have entered the developmental stage for Primary, they will be invited back for a visit and will be welcome when ready (based on space availability).

Hours of Operation

Darchei Noam is open Monday through Friday.

Arrival

Toddler & Primary Division arrival ~ 9:00am

Early arrival begins at 8:00am and is billed at \$15/day as a drop in rate. Please call the main office for monthly and annual discounted rates.

Dismissal

Toddler & Lower Primary dismissal (ages 3-4) ~ 2:00pm

Upper Primary dismissal (ages 5-6)~ 3:00pm

Late stay is available until 4:30 pm and billed at \$15/hour. Please call the main office for monthly and annual discounted rates.

Friday dismissal ~ 1:00 pm

Any changes in carpool drivers should be arranged by email in advance. We understand that emergencies arise and there are times when you may not be able to make it to carpool at the designated time. If you are not able to let us know in advance, we will be happy to accommodate your child. **Please understand that if this occurs more than once, you will be billed; ten dollars for the first ten minutes and two dollars a minute thereafter.**

In the case of an emergency school closure, you will be notified through our online system, Remini.

Tuition

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| Non-refundable enrollment and materials fee | \$180.00 |
| Returning students non-refundable enrollment and materials fee | \$160.00 |

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| Toddler Program (2 years) | \$6300.00 |
| Lower Primary (ages 3-4) | \$5000.00 |
| Upper Primary (ages 5-6) | \$6500.00 |

Tuition paid in full by May 1st will reflect a \$250 deduction of total tuition costs.

Withdrawals

If, due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. a move or any other reason), you need to withdraw your child from Darchei Noam Montessori, you are responsible for paying tuition until Darchei Noam is able to recruit a child to take his/her place. As we work to keep financial stability and staff according to licensing and educational requirements, all tuition fees must be completely fulfilled for the school year. Pro-rated tuition fees are not available. Any difficulties should be brought to the school's attention as quickly as possible so that we can best assist.

Classroom Observation

All parents are invited and encouraged to come visit our school and observe throughout the day. Please call the main number to arrange your time to come. Observations are 20 minutes long. Upon arrival a teacher will help you to find a place to sit to observe. Please understand that this time is not a time to get involved in the children or their activities. There will be a short questionnaire for you to fill in to help us understand what it is that you have observed. You can schedule a post-observation conversation with your child's teacher to review what you saw and ask questions. Please save any questions or comments for this time. The Toddler Room is not open to in-room observations.

Parent/Teacher Communication

There will be two conference dates scheduled on the calendar. You will be able to make an appointment with your child's teacher online. If you are unable to schedule through the online system, just call the school to make an appointment.

Your child's teacher will share her best form of communication at the start of the school year. You will also receive information to join your child's class group through Remini. On Remini you should plan to be able to get a better picture of what your child does throughout the day. The following is the Remini communications schedule:

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|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Monday | note from Morah about the week |
| Tuesday | pictures |
| Wednesday | video clip |
| Thursday | pictures |
| Friday | weekly newsletter |

Darchei Noam Montessori will send a monthly email on the first of each month with reminders of the upcoming events for the month. These events can also be found on your school calendar.

Any questions or concerns about your child or the program should be brought to the teacher's attention immediately. Our goal is to work as a team and create an environment in which your child is safe and happy. Please understand that we may not be able to make some changes that you might feel necessary. We are, however, dedicated to working together so that you can understand our policies and feel comfortable.

Discipline Philosophy

Our goal is to help the children to create a sense of inner discipline. Throughout the classroom and curriculum this is one of the main focal points. Through usage of the materials in the room as well as the overall design of the school, children continually find themselves in situations that demand their genuine concentration and thinking skills. Whether positive or negative, the simple idea of 'natural consequences' is apparent to the child and never comes as a surprise. This helps the children to not only feel comfortable and safe but it also creates an environment of clear understanding of the expectations of everyone involved. When a child is familiar with this setup he/she begins to develop a deep sense of inner discipline, knowing and understanding the ideas of respect; for one's self, parents, teachers, peers and the world at large. Our school embraces a zero tolerance for biting. If a child bites a child or teacher, a parent will be contacted immediately to come and pick up the child from school.

Field Trips

Darhei Noam we are dedicated to creating an environment that is both rich and living. We like to add to our classroom environment by venturing out and taking trips as a class. Notices will be sent home or provided online well in advance of any such trips as well as permission slips that need to be filled out and sent in so your child can participate. Some trips may require an additional charge due to transportation and/or admission fees. We will also need parent volunteers to join us as chaperones. Please be in touch when the time comes if you can join us.

Food and Safety

Please send your child with a prepared lunch every day of school. Lunches should consist of a main dish (i.e. sandwich, yogurt, pizza, macaroni, fish) and a fresh fruit or vegetable. Please do not send packaged snacks (chips, Bissli, etc.), drinks or desserts. We work with the children to understand the mitzvah of taking good care of our bodies and therefore are careful to promote healthful eating.

School snack will be available every day as well as milk and water. All snacks provided in school will be pas Yisroel and cholov Yisroel (if applicable).

Safety is a number one priority at Darchei Noam. We work hard to always follow Maryland State law with ratio, health precautions and staff training. Our playground time is carefully supervised by adequate staff and our classrooms have open shelving to allow for a high level of supervision.

Dress Code and Show and Tell

Any clothing or lunch boxes that are worn or brought into school should not have any form of TV characters on them.

Children are invited to bring in something special that is small to share with their friends at show and tell. We will have a basket in our room for these special things and on Friday each child will have a turn to show his/her special something and tell the class about it. If a child does not have something to share they will be invited to share a story instead. Please only send in one thing per week, all belongings from the basket will be sent back home on Friday. If your child's special item does not fit into their lunchbox, it is probably too big. Please be sure that whatever is being sent in does not have any connection to any TV characters or movies.

In creating a beautiful, clean and peaceful environment where independence is constantly available, we ask that you send in a pair of 'indoor shoes'. Upon arrival at school and throughout the day whenever an indoor/outdoor transition is made, the children will have the time to change their shoes. Please take the time to have your child help in choosing his/her special indoor shoes. These shoes will be worn for the bulk of the school day and should therefore be very comfortable for your child. Any soft soled, easy to put on and off shoe is suitable. Many children enjoy Crocs or slippers. If you choose to send in slippers, please be sure that your child can easily move around, sit and stand in them.

Backpacks are not necessary and are not invited to school. Please send your child with a lunchbox only. When your child has more to bring home than will fit into his/her lunchbox, we will provide something that is comfortable for him/her.

Please send in a full change of fully labeled clothing that can stay in your child's bin in case a change is necessary.

Additional Information

We would love to celebrate your child's birthday in school. We follow the 'Hebrew' calendar for birthdays and can have a party on a day that works out for both you and the kitah even if it is not exactly on your child's birthday. Please contact the teacher in advance to arrange a time that would be suitable. Please send in photos of your child the day before the party (one from each year of his/her life) to be shared at the party.

Contact Information

Our school office number

410~413~1426

Email

office@darcheinoammontessori.com

Online

www.darcheinoammontessori.com



Handbook Signature Page

My child _____ will be in the _____
Division for the 2018-2019 School Year.

I have read and reviewed the student handbook for the school year 2018-2019 and agree to adhere to the information shared.

Parent signature: _____

Parent Name Printed: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature: _____

Parent Name Printed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for partnering with us for your child's chinuch!