

**Gan Ami
Early Childhood
Education**

**Family Handbook
&
Policy Guide**

Revised 07/15/2021

Gan Ami (*Gahn ah-mee*) is a Hebrew term that means “Garden of my People.” In Israel, a preschool is referred to as a *Gan*. Our *Gan* is filled with our people: children, faculty, parents, and grandparents...a place where we can all come together as a community to learn and grow.

B’ruchim Haba’im! Welcome to Gan Ami!

Dear Gan Ami families:

We welcome you to our school community! We are honored to share this Family Handbook with you as a tool to serve you as you begin or continue at Gan Ami.

Communication with our families is integral to our program. We will be working hard to get to know you. A network of communication truly exists between our children, our parents, and our faculty. These three components work together to create a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and the co-construction of knowledge. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with your child’s specific teachers, the Gan Ami faculty as a whole, and the leadership team within Gan Ami.

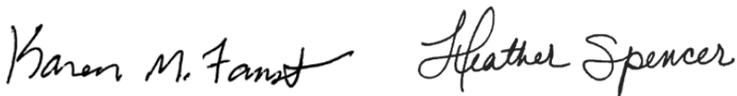
We weave Jewish values into the children’s everyday experiences at Gan Ami, including: **Hachnasat Orchim** (welcoming guests, which is vital as we open the doors to our new school year), and **Kehillah** (community), responsibility, dignity, kindness, tradition and respect. We also incorporate **Tzedakah** (charity) as an opportunity to teach the children about taking care of others and creating a spirit of giving. Human values help our families feel welcome in our Jewish school – we all seek to support young children in their humanity and their understanding of the dignity of all people.

Our philosophy of education includes inspiration from the schools of Reggio Emilia, where children are seen as capable, parents are active partners in the educational process, and talented faculty are both guides and researchers. Play is essential to the growth of child, and we offer engaging hands-on learning environments and experiences to challenge and support all children in their quest to become life-long learners.

Please read this handbook carefully so that you will become more familiar with Gan Ami’s programs, policies, and procedures. If we can be of assistance to you and your family, please call or visit. We strive to foster positive and long-lasting relationships between home, school, and our larger JCC community.

We look forward to our learning journey together and we welcome you to our **mishpacha**, our family.

B’shalom,



Karen Faust and Heather Spencer
Directors of Early Childhood

You can follow Gan Ami and JCC on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/JCCGanAmi
www.facebook.com/HarryandRoseSamsonFamilyJCC

Hours of Operation, Locations, and Contact Information

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday: 7:00AM-6:00 PM

Friday : 7:00 AM-5:30 PM

Locations

Linda & Fred Wein Family Center

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education in Mequon

10813 North Port Washington Rd., Mequon WI 53092

262-242-9871

Karl Campus

Gan Ami Early Childhood Whitefish Bay

6255 N Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217

414-967-8241

Contact Information

Karen Faust, Mequon Site Director

Contact for questions regarding needs of children,
parent questions, site specific information and programs

262-242-9871

kfaust@jccmilwaukee.org



Heather Spencer, Whitefish Bay Site Director

Contact for questions regarding needs of children,
parent questions, site specific information and programs

414-967-8189

hspencer@jccmilwaukee.org



Michelle L. Hoffman, Gan Ami Business Manager

Contact for questions regarding billing, lunch program,
scheduling, registration

414-967-8266

mhoffman@jccmilwaukee.org



Programming

The Curriculum and Philosophy of Gan Ami Early Childhood

- Gan Ami Early Childhood believes children learn by doing. As children experiment with objects and handle materials, they make discoveries and learn new skills through play. When children leave our center, they are prepared to face challenges through communication, problem solving, risk taking, and exercising self-discipline.
- Our teachers carefully prepare the classroom with learning opportunities in different interest areas. We plan child and teacher-directed experiences in art, music, science, literacy, cooking, creative movement, verbal expression and cultural foundations. Balancing activities — free choice/structure and active/quiet — helps foster responsibility, self-regulation, and confidence.
- Our program is inspired by the approach of the schools of Reggio Emilia, where children are viewed as capable, parents are partners, and teachers are both guides and researchers. Teachers receive training on this approach and parents are invited to ask questions and provide support as classrooms engage in projects and long-term studies of ideas and concepts that are connected to the interests of the children.
- The state of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families along with the Department of Public Instruction published the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS). Our curriculum and assessment at Gan Ami Early Childhood is in support of the WMELS Guiding Principles. The guiding principles are:
 - All children are capable and competent
 - Early relationships matter
 - A child's early learning and development is multidimensional
 - Expectations for children must be guided by knowledge of child growth and development
 - Children are individuals who develop at various rates
 - Children are members of cultural groups that share developmental patterns
 - Children exhibit a range of skills and competencies within any domain of development
 - Children learn through play and the active exploration of their environment
 - Parents are children's primary and most important caregivers and educators
- We are committed to developmentally appropriate practices as defined by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC). We integrate Jewish culture and traditions into each classroom — providing experiences for the celebration of Shabbat (the Sabbath) and festive Jewish holidays.

Curriculum and Philosophy Continued:

The National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC) and Youngstar

- Gan Ami Early Childhood is a state licensed program that is accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC). NAC is a national accreditation program which develops and promotes professionalism and quality for early care and educational programs.
- Gan Ami is a 5-Star Youngstar Center. Gan Ami is evaluated based on a quality rating indicator system called Youngstar. Centers are ranked on a scale of 2-5 stars based on their quality rating. For more information on Youngstar, please visit: www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/.

Sheva

Sheva (the number seven in Hebrew) is the JCC's of North America Early Learning Framework and signifies the seven core elements of exemplary early childhood practice deeply rooted in the latest research on child development seen through a Jewish lens. Early childhood education has been a centerpiece of JCCs for almost a century, and historically it has been a gateway into JCC programming for families with young children. Just as the early years are a critical time for a child's individual development, the time spent in early childhood centers is also a critical time in a family's identity formation and connection to their JCC. The success of early childhood education depends not only on the educator, but on the combined efforts of everyone involved in the program, including the children, families, and program directors. Our goal is to continually raise the level of excellence in our Early Childhood Center programs by learning together through Sheva learning communities and focusing on the following "7 Core Elements of Sheva":

- Children as Constructivist Learners
- Early Childhood Directors as Visionaries
- Early Childhood Educators as Professionals
- Families as Engaged Partners
- Environments as Inspiration for Inquiry
- *Discover CATCH* as Sh'mirat HaGuf (taking care of our bodies)
- Israel as the Story of the Jewish People

Specialists

In addition to our well-trained educators, depending on your child's classroom age group, specialists assist in providing experiences in music/movement, art, experiential swim and Hebrew, along with Jewish culture and traditions.

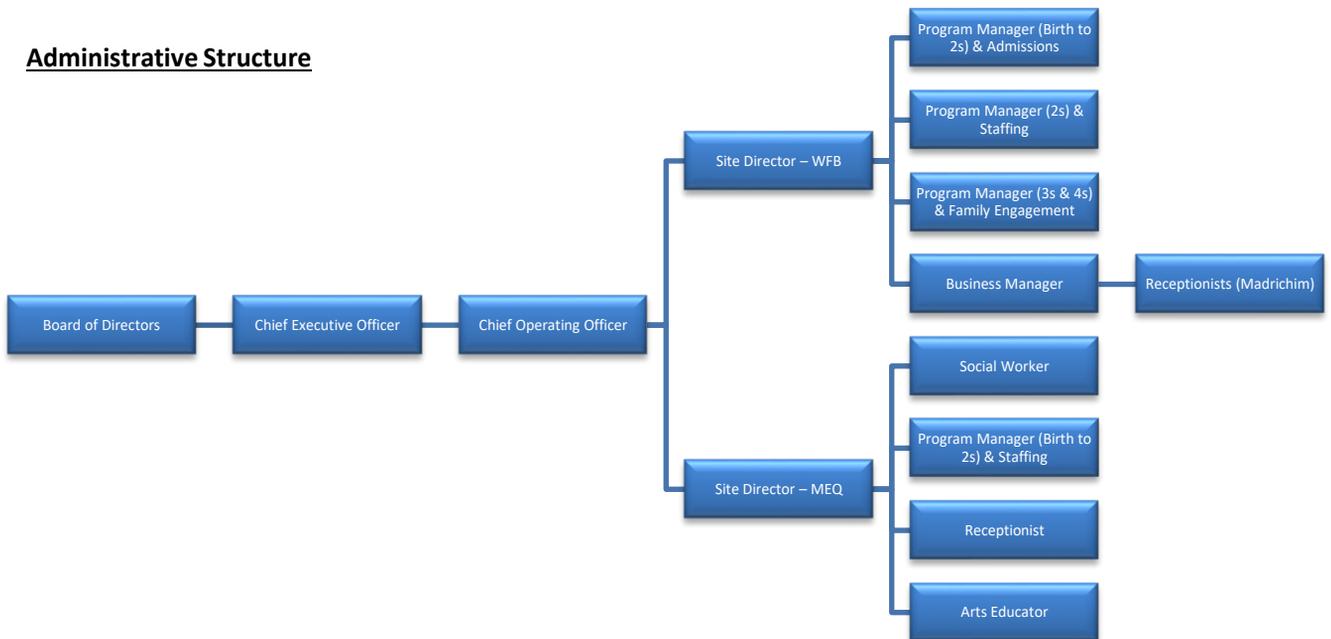
Methods of Enrollment/Population Served

Enrollment forms may be requested by phone or email. Parents are encouraged to tour the facility. Upon evaluation of availability, completion of enrollment forms and receipt of deposit, placement in the program will be confirmed. Children 6 weeks through 5 years are welcome.

Mission

Creating spaces. Building opportunities. Inspiring Jewish moments for diverse communities.

Administrative Structure



Attendance

- Children may attend the programs on prearranged half-day or full day schedules with a minimum of three days per week. See enrollment section for more information.
- The staff in each classroom will take monthly attendance on a preprinted classroom attendance sheet.
- If a child is absent and the parent has not already notified the school, the teacher will call the home to verify the child's absence. Parents are encouraged to call into the school's main line or leave the classroom a message on Remini, the school's communication system.
- Teachers will record when parents drop off and pick up on Remini. Teachers will always maintain responsibility for every child in their care. Information on late pick-up, absences and vacation policy is available under the Enrollment, Fee Structure & Discharge Policy section. At the end of the month all attendance forms are filed on the Early Childhood drive.

Taxes

Gan Ami Early Childhood will prepare an end of the year statement of payment on letter head if requested.

THE TAX ID# FOR GAN AMI EARLY CHILDHOOD: is 39-0806234

Confidentiality

All child records will be maintained by staff to ensure confidentiality of all personal information. Parents and persons who have written authorization may access children's records upon request. Only other agencies that have legally authorized access will be allowed to review records.

Nondiscrimination

The JCC is committed to provide equal opportunities and does not discriminate by race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, creed or special needs. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights (Office of Adjudication), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632- 9992 (Voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal Relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The JCC Early Childhood Department complies with all aspects of ADA requirements and will, therefore, afford reasonable accommodations to children with known disabilities unless such accommodations would cause an undue hardship to the JCC. Children with special needs will be integrated into JCC programs. Staff will meet individually with parents to develop a program that works for child and classroom.

Terms of License

The Gan Ami Early Childhood Family Handbook, outlining all Center philosophies, policies, and procedures and Wisconsin Administrative Code, HFS 46, Licensing Rules for Group Day Care Centers are available upon request. Copies of each of these booklets are also available in the Gan Ami Early Childhood offices. Our state license, accreditation information, and the record of our last licensing visit are posted on the wall in the Gan Ami Early Childhood Entry Way.

License/Posting

All JCC Early Childhood programs will display the following:

- Group Day Care License on the main bulletin board of each school for parent review. This license will reflect days, hours and months of operation, ages of children to be served as well as the maximum number of children to be served at any given time
- The most recent licensing inspection report will be posted next to the license including any non-compliance or enforcement actions
- The JCC will comply with all laws governing facilities and operations
- Other pertinent school information
- Specific classroom information is posted outside the door of each classroom
- Copies of policies are on file in the school office and are available upon request

Parental Access

- Parents are encouraged to visit the center anytime.
- Parents are welcome to participate in our program in several ways. We enjoy having families join us for lunch, snack, special days, and field trips. Parents are encouraged to share a hobby or interest with our children and an invitation always stands for you to read a book during story time or join us for Havdalah or Shabbat Sing. Our center is open to family involvement and communication.
- Gan Ami Early Childhood has an open-door policy for families to visit and/or observe at any time during Gan Ami's hours of operation, unless access is prohibited or restricted by court order
- Community Health guidelines and restrictions, will always take precedence.

Item Provisions

Parents will provide diapers, wipes, cot (crib sized) sheet, blanket, a change of clothing, clothing for outdoor play, formula, lunch, backpack or bag and personal items. The JCC will provide all supplies and equipment that are appropriate for the care and learning environments of the program.

How To Get Involved and the Gan Ami Family Committee

Many opportunities exist for all parents to become involved at Gan Ami. We encourage participation and presence. Please consider becoming a Room Parent or joining the Gan Ami Family Committee; information will be available during the first month of school.

Family Committee Mission Statement

The Gan Ami Family Committee mission is to establish and nurture a close relationship between the parents, educators, and children by advancing opportunities in the home, school, and community of Gan Ami Early Childhood. The committee provides assistance to educators in classroom settings, promotes school and family social interaction, and provides a forum for sharing information on issues that impact our children. It is our belief that the team effort of a parent committee offers the best possible learning environment for our children.

Use of Child's Photos

JCC Membership agreement stipulates permission and consent to JCC and Gan Ami to use, print, copy, publish and reproduce any and all photographs, negatives, print reproductions and likeness of any kind now or at any time hereafter made of me or my family by JCC for advertising, publicity, display or any purpose whatsoever without fees to be paid to me waiving any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product of the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied. Our partnership agreement with MJF requires that we provide, within reason, access to photos and the like for the same purposes.

School Closings/Calendar

- School closings are planned annually and scheduled based on Jewish holidays, National holidays and required in-service training days.
- Emergencies closing due to weather conditions or other emergencies are communicated through email, Remini , Remind text messaging service and reported to the local radio and TV channels.
- School calendars can be located on the JCC website and are attached to your current enrollment contract.

Pets

- Dogs and cats are not allowed at the Center.
- If pets are added to the school, parents will be notified in writing.

Children's Records

Each child participating in a JCC Early Childhood program has a file that includes:

- An enrollment form must be on file prior to the first day of attendance.
- Children under two years old will also have an intake form on file by the first day of attendance. This form must be updated every three months and kept in a place where the teacher has access and can keep information current.
- A current Health and Immunization form must be on file within 30 days of attendance. Families choosing slow or no immunizations for health or religious reasons will need a signed letter from their pediatrician and may be excluded from the program if there is an outbreak of a specific virus reported by the health department in the area. The Early Childhood Director will make this decision.
- Emergency Contact and Transportation Pick up Authorization forms will be kept on file in each classroom and given to the van drivers when applicable.

Communication

Beginning of the School Year and Intake Meetings

Families new to Gan Ami Early Childhood are asked to arrange a visit with their child's teacher to answer any questions they may have and for the classroom teacher to share information about the daily routine, center educational philosophy, curriculum and assessment process. This is also a time for the classroom teacher to ask questions about the child, family and how we can make the family a part of our program. This visit is required for all families by Wisconsin Child Care Licensing Regulations.

Family/Teacher Conferences

There are two family/teacher conferences scheduled each school year, during the fall and during the spring. Teachers post sign-up sheets on their classroom doors prior to the conference. We would like to encourage families to set up meetings with the teachers whenever there is a concern about activities in the classroom, discipline, or questions about child development. Conferences are an excellent time to work together with the teachers to offer support services to each child and family.

We also provide newsletters, and daily information using the Remini application. Family notices, events, reminders etc. are sent out through e-mail.

Documentation and Assessment

Gan Ami uses a variety of assessment methods that are sensitive to family culture, experiences, children's abilities and home language. Staff share an understanding of the purposes, values, and uses of assessment in the program. As a part of our YoungStar and NAC Accreditation, as well as program planning, teachers in the classrooms use variety of methods to record and gather information on each child.

Assessment is used for:

- Establishing goals for each child's learning
- Curriculum planning
- Setting up learning environments
- Planning for small and large group activities
- Meeting children's needs and interests
- Documentation of children's work and assessment for future planning

Every child at Gan Ami has a Journey Binder. Teachers record and gather information (anecdotal records, photos and direct quotes) about the children's interests, activities they participate in, children at play and developmental milestones that are demonstrated while at Gan Ami.

Enrollment, Fee Structure & Discharge Policy

Enrollment

- Registration forms are distributed several months before the end of the school year and are available throughout the year upon request. A nonrefundable deposit is required at the time of registration to secure a place in the program.
- Scholarship is available. Parents must formally apply through the JCC scholarship office. For a confidential consultation, please contact the scholarship office at (414)964-8180.
- Payment arrangements may be made with the Gan Ami Family Services Coordinator. Monthly payments are due on the first of each month, in the form of credit or debit withdrawals.
- There is a sibling discount for families with additional children in the Gan Ami program. Discount applies to lowest tuition rate(s).
- There are additional fees for field trips, lunches, late care and late pick-ups.
- The Family Services Coordinator handles late payments and NSF checks. Late pick-up will be assessed. Please see current contract for fee details.
- The full day program enrollment is for a minimum of 8 hours/day. Early and late care is available for full day enrollment and included in tuition pricing.
- Days children are enrolled for are set and cannot be changed unless space is available, and the parent fills out a “schedule change” or “add additional day of care” request form.
- For children not enrolled in our full-time program, additional full or half days may be added to a child’s schedule on an individual basis with preapproval by the site manager. Requests for additional days of care will be granted based on availability and on a first come first serve basis for an additional fee.
- Any refunds of fees will be approved on a case by case basis by the Director of Early Childhood Education and the Chief Financial Officer.
- Families whose children are enrolled in Gan Ami must be members of the JCC.
- This Gan Ami Family Handbook which includes Center policies are given to all parents when they register for the program and at the beginning of each school year.
- Child records are available to parents upon request.

Disenrollment of Child

Guidelines for the Disenrollment of Children Are As Follows:

- If disrupting or atypical aggression is displayed and staff has little or no success implementing traditional methods of defusing the situations, the family will be consulted, and the behaviors will be documented for a period.
- During the time of observation and documentation, the family will be updated daily. If the behaviors of this child result in an accident report for another child, the report will be verbally shared with the parents of the child whose actions have caused the incident withholding confidential information.
- After the observation period and anecdotal documentation, the teaching staff will work with the Site Manager to determine who will observe the child and consult with staff.
- If the family does not agree to working with an outside professional, care for the child may be terminated with a two-weeks notice.
- Teachers and the Early Childhood Director will meet with the family to describe the proposed observations and/or consultation.
- Teachers will continue to document behavior while implementing the strategies recommended by the outside professional. Progress toward changed behavior must be noted within a month of initiating the early childhood specialist's recommendations.
- At the end of this one-month period of time, a meeting will be held between the director, the teachers and the family. If no progress has been made, the enrollment may be ended.

Factors to be considered in this decision will include:

- Impact of behavior in the classroom
- Demand on staff time
- Availability of resources to Gan Ami
- Impact on the basic nature of the program and the finances of Gan Ami to accommodate child's special needs
- Possibility of danger to the child or others in the class and the ability of staff to meet the child's needs
- Willingness of the family to work with the teaching staff and/or to get outside help

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education reserves the right to disenroll at any point in time, without regard to the above procedures, in a situation that is determined to be extremely detrimental and/or dangerous to the child concerned, other children and/or staff in the program.

Disenrollment of Child Continued

Other Factors for Disenrollment Could Be:

- Non-payment from parents and/or lack of adherence to JCC tuition/membership payment policies
- The child has special needs which Gan Ami cannot meet, including disruptive behavior which requires a disproportionate amount of one-to-one attention or is putting the safety of themselves, other children, or teachers in jeopardy
- Failure to provide the required forms for enrollment
- Abusive behaviors and/or verbal threats by the family toward program staff, other families and/or children
- Non-compliance with Gan Ami Early Childhood's policies and procedures
- Lack of cooperation from the family in adhering to policies and procedures relating to child's arrival and pick-up
- Unwillingness to work with Gan Ami staff on issues relating to the child

Discharge

Written notification of leaving the school is required one month in advance of targeted date. If a child does not remain in the program, irrespective of reason, fees are not prorated. A full month of tuition is charged, barring extenuating circumstances. No money will be refunded for temporary illness or family vacations. Children may be considered for discharge if the behaviors are so severe that it is significantly interfering with the learning of others. (See above Disenrollment policies).

Education Policy

The JCC provides both a developmental curriculum: language, social and math, science, language arts and community awareness as well as Judaic education to all children who attend Gan Ami. The Judaic curriculum includes Jewish holidays, the Sabbath, values and other basic traditions. Traditions are taught through art, song, books, prayers and special foods.

Preschool Curriculum

Teachers are cognizant of all three areas of development; cognitive (including language), psychomotor (gross and fine motor) and social/emotional. These developmental areas are seamlessly integrated into the classroom activities. Learning centers are built around Judaic content, the arts, science, cooking, reading readiness and language. Specialists provide instruction in music, physical education and creative movement. Curriculum plans are developed following the interests of the children as well as both Jewish & secular calendars. Each classroom team is free to choose specific projects and areas of study/interest and is responsible for creating weekly and monthly teaching plans.

Infant/Toddlers Programming

Infants are given individualized care and each child follows his/her own schedule. Toddlers transition from cribs to cots at age 12-15 months. Educators begin to schedule more group activities as they see fit. All programming is developmentally appropriate. The children are stimulated through music, songs, language and interaction. They are provided with a variety of safe toys in order to stimulate growth and provide learning opportunities. The teachers provide nurturing and physical contact through holding, rocking, talking and singing. Parents and teachers will communicate daily through conversation and Remini .

Outdoor Activities

Children are taken outside everyday, except during inclement weather. Temperatures and wind chills must be above 0 degrees or below 90 degrees for ages two and up, and over 20 degrees and under 90 degrees for ages two and under. Children are taken to playgrounds located on the premises or taken for walks around the building or neighborhoods. Infant/toddlers are taken for walks in strollers.

Child Guidance

The JCC provides positive child guidance for each child. Clear expectations and limits are articulated, modeled and reinforced throughout each and every teaching opportunity. Children are taught listening skills, problem solving, making good choices, expressing their feelings and needs and understanding logical and natural consequences. Methodologies employed include: modeling, structuring the classroom environment, planned activities, direct instruction of related concepts and evaluating established routines. Beginning to acquire these skills helps children gain self-esteem, self-control and respect for others.

Managing Upset Children

We have several ways of managing crying, fussing or distraught behavior: Children are cuddled, held, redirected and teachers make every effort to engage child in different activities. Teachers work closely with parents sharing ideas of what strategies work best with the child at home in order to provide consistency at school. Leadership team is used when a child needs space to be away from the group and calm down in order to have a successful day.

Building Self-esteem

Children feel good about themselves when they feel empowered and capable. This is accomplished by first establishing clear expectations for behavior and providing an organized learning environment. This is followed by intentional teaching, which incorporates opportunities for self-expression and deliberate and frequent positive reinforcement.

Child Concerns

Child concerns include both those that are related to overall growth and development as well as behavioral issues.

Growth and Developmental concerns are those that primarily relate to cognitive, linguistic, social/emotional or psychomotor development. Assessments in these areas are strictly observational in nature.

Behavioral concerns are those in which a child's behavior significantly interferes with the overall flow of the program by requiring constant one-to-one attention, causing harm to others or unable to conform to the very broad parameters of the program.

When such concerns arise, observation and documentation is required. This is followed by parent conferences in which the parents are brought in as partners to further assess and/or identify appropriate interventions. Interventions may include professional referrals, instituting behavioral plans, establishing consistent approaches in home and school and/or providing additional support help in school.

The JCC strives for mutual agreement with parents when it is determined that a child's needs cannot be met in this environment and must withdraw from the program. (See Disenrollment Procedures)

Timeouts

- Time-outs are considered the "last resort" alternative to modifying behavior. Other approaches such as proximity control, reinforcement for incompatible behaviors and redirection should be applied systematically across time before a decision to place a child in time-out. Additionally, a time-out should only be used when a child is clearly out of control and is therefore exhibiting dangerous behavior.
- Time-outs could take place in the classroom. The length of the time-out is determined based on age of the child using the standard guideline of one minute per year, with a maximum time out of five minutes.
- Time outs are not permitted under the age of three in any circumstance.

Prohibited Treatment

Prohibited treatments include spanking, hitting, shaking, verbal abuse, derogatory or sarcastic remarks, grabbing children in anger and withholding or forcing of food or naps. Caregivers who exhibit any of these behaviors will be counseled and put on probation. These behaviors may lead to suspension or discharge.

Aggressive Behavior Policy

- Aggressive behavior is of concern for families and staff working with infants, toddlers and young preschoolers. Biting, although considered a more aggressive act, is not an unusual behavior for young children; it is developmentally appropriate. Young children act out for different reasons such as; teething, sensory exploration, autonomy and control, peer interaction, imitation, frustration, anxiety and curiosity etc. It occurs most frequently when a child is tired, frustrated, or over-stimulated.
- When children have specific behavior problems such as biting, staff's first objective is to identify the followings:
 - What is happening with the child exhibiting the behavior both at school and at home?
 - When and where did the bite or aggressive act occur?
 - Who was or hurt?
 - How was it handled?
 - What was the child's response to the consequence?
- We then "track" this information and child (by "shadowing" them) to see if there is a pattern that helps us identify why this particular child is behaving in this way.
- The family of the child who has acted out is told about the incident or incidents and offered resources and support, so together staff and parents can work with the child to help eliminate the behavior. Should the family wish or the staff feel it is necessary, a conference is held with the family, teachers and the Director to share information from school and home that may be helpful in our working together on this problem? If the biting or behavior continues Gan Ami, along with the family's assistance, will seek outside resources to help the child stop the behavior.

Disruptive Behavior Policy

Communication between home and Gan Ami is the key to the effectiveness of any discipline approach. Children experience varying difficulties at different stages of their development. While this is quite typical, it is also important that problematic behaviors not be shrugged off as being "just a stage," as this approach prolongs and reinforces behaviors that, if left unchecked, can create major difficulties for the child. However, after reasonable efforts, if the child's behavior continues to be disruptive to the classroom in ways which require a disproportionate amount of one to one attention, parents will be counseled to find an alternative childcare arrangement that may be able to better meet their child's needs. In these situations, we seek to ensure the safety of other children and teachers in the program.

Diapering, Toilet Training and Changing Clothes

Diapering Policies

- The families of children who wear diapers are responsible for having an adequate supply of diapers and wipes at Gan Ami. Diapers should be clearly labeled with your child's name to avoid mix-ups. If your child wears cloth diapers, we ask that you send enough diaper wraps so a fresh one can be used each time your child is changed, and the diaper can be changed as a single unit. Plastic pants do not meet health and safety standards for group care. Cloth diapers cannot be rinsed by staff, as state health codes prohibit rinsing diapers in public toilets. They will be placed in a plastic bag and hung on your child's hook. Please take these home on a daily basis.
- Children under two are changed every two hours. All children over two are checked once every two hours and changed as needed. The changing area is located in the bathroom or classroom area separated from the learning centers. Staff will follow the changing procedures posted in the diaper changing area, and the changing table will be cleaned and sanitized after each child's use. Soiled diapers will be put into the foot operated, lidded container next to the changing table. The container is kept closed and contents are not accessible to the children.
- If you want staff to apply ointment, please label the ointment with your child's full name and fill out the medication form. Forms are available online or in the Gan Ami office. If you are out of diapers and the room uses one from an emergency supply, please be sure to return one to them.

Toilet Training

- Learning to use the toilet is an important self-help skill for young children. It's a process that requires much encouragement and patience. When you and your child are ready for toilet training please let us know. A cooperative effort between home and Gan Ami is most effective with training to have started at home. For the first couple of weeks, continue to send diapers in addition to extra underpants and clothes. Staff will wash hands before and after assisting children with toileting. Staff assists children in learning and carrying out habits of personal hygiene. Independence and the development of self-help skills are encouraged. As with diapers, rinsing soiled underwear is not possible (per state codes). They will be placed in a plastic bag and put in your child's cubby. Please take the underwear home on a daily basis.
- Children learning to use the toilet at Gan Ami are taken to the bathroom more frequently. Toilet training can be a difficult time for children and is handled sensitively, with patience, praise, and positive reinforcement.
- In accordance with childcare regulations, the JCC may not attempt to toilet train children under the age of 18 months.
- A cooperative effort to toilet train a child can take place when the parent has begun to initiate training at home.
- No child is refused participation in school due to toilet training issues.

Diapering, Toilet Training and Changing Clothes Continued

Clothing Changes

- When changing diapers, using the bathrooms or changing soiled clothing, we change children in the bathrooms. We do not separate children by gender when changing their clothing, toileting or changing diapers. There is always an adult present in the bathroom.
- During our summer programming and days over 80 degrees in Early Fall and Late Spring we may participate in water play. Swim clothing or extra clothes is encouraged.
- When changing children in and out of swim clothing we do not separate children by gender in our toddler, young preschool, preschool or pre-kindergarten programs.
- Gan Ami believes in developing positive attitudes about our bodies. In keeping with our educational goals for the development of positive self-concept, teachers educate children with the correct anatomical names for all body parts. In response to children's curiosity about their bodies, questions are answered in an age-appropriate way.

Contingency Plans

Fire /Tornado and Other Emergency Policies

- Daily attendance is taken and kept in each individual classroom. At the end of each month, attendance records are compiled into a master office file. An emergency card for each child is completed by parents and kept in each child's respective classroom and a copy is in the office child file. These include parent home & work telephone numbers, an emergency contact, allergies and physician's name.
- Teachers take emergency cards with them whenever the class leaves the classroom.
- No child may leave the classroom unattended by an adult.
- Emergency plans and diagrams for evacuation for fire, tornado drills and/or other evacuations are posted near each door of every classroom.
- Emergency procedures, including accidents and use of fire extinguishers, are reviewed during the annual orientation held at the beginning of each school year. Teachers employed at other times are individually oriented.
- Fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis. The staff carries with them attendance sheets and emergency cards. The lights are turned off and all doors are closed. The children are taken away from the building. Staff waits for all clear notification before returning to building.
- During tornado evacuations, the staff takes children to the designated area away from windows and doors. Attendance lists and emergency cards are taken when leaving the classroom. Children remain in the designated area until there is an all-clear notice.
- Fully equipped first aid kits are provided in every classroom and vehicle. First aid kits must be taken when leaving the building with a class.
- Telephones and emergency numbers are located in each classroom.
- The inside temperature of the building and classrooms must remain between 68 and 70 degrees.
- If a loss of building services occurs (heat, air-conditioning, water, electricity, plumbing or telephone), a decision to close the facility will be made based on the anticipated length of the disruption and the evaluated conditions and circumstances
- Only authorized individuals may pick up children. A verbal permission for other than "authorized" individuals to pick up a child is acceptable. Presentation of a picture ID is required before the child is released.
- Children are not released to any person under the influence of alcohol. A call to another responsible adult is made.

***See Missing Child Appendix 2**

Emergency Medical Source

For the Mequon site - A 911 call will be placed, if determined the nearest medical facility will be used for serious medical incidences.

For the Whitefish Bay site - A Purple Duty is called. Trained personnel from the Gan Ami Administration and the Heath and Recreation Department respond. Aide is provided, as well as any determination of a 911 call. If determined the nearest medical facility will be used for serious medical incidences

All staff is required, annually, to be CPR and First Aid Red Cross certified. Employee orientation will detail actual steps to be taken.

Health Care

Parent Notification

- Parents will be notified of the following:
 - If the child becomes ill or is injured.
 - If the child has been exposed to a communicable disease.

Communicable Diseases

- When a child suspected of having a communicable disease, parents are contacted and the Public Health Department is notified.
- Parents must notify the school when a communicable disease is confirmed.
- A classroom notice is posted when there is an incidence of a communicable disease.
- Additionally a letter may be sent home to parents describing the symptoms to look for and the incubation period.
- The child shall remain out of school until all symptoms are gone. The child's physician will provide contagious period recommendations.
- Staff is subject to the same exclusion criteria.

Illness

- Parents are called immediately when a child exhibits the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, has vomited, has diarrhea, a rash, discharge from nose, ears, or eyes and whose behavior indicates that they are in discomfort. They will be expected to pick up the child within 1 hour. The ill child will be made comfortable and isolated from the other children while waiting for the parent to arrive.
- Children may not return to school until they are symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours without the aid of medication.
- Staff is subject to the same exclusion criteria.

Injuries

- If a child is injured, the Director will be notified immediately. First aid will be administered for minor injuries. A 911 emergency will be called in case of a serious injury. The decision to take a child to a medical facility will be the decision of the paramedics.
- Parents are notified immediately. The medical log is completed as well as an incident report which is filed in a binder.
- Parents complete a field trip permission slip prior to taking a child off-site. Off-site injuries will follow the same procedures.
- Allergic reactions follow the same protocol unless an "Allergy Action Plan" is provided by the parent. Forms for this can be requested in the office or come from the child's pediatrician.

Health Care Continued

Medical Log

- Staff maintains a medical log book indicating all injuries, accidents and medication administered. Precise data entry procedures, as delineated by licensing codes, are followed. The Site Manager checks the log on a monthly basis.

Universal Precautions

- All staff will take CPR first aid every other year.
- All staff that potentially are exposed to blood, bodily fluids such as vomit, urine, and feces will wear disposable gloves. Gloves will be disposed of in a plastic bag after use. Hands will be washed with soap and warm water. All areas affected by any bodily fluid spills will be disinfected.

Cleanliness

- Children's hands are washed with soap and water before eating, and after toileting. Hands and faces are washed after meals and snacks.
- Staff washes hands before and after handling and assisting with toileting and wet or soiled clothing will be changed promptly.
- Disposable wipes and diapers, etc. are used rather than cloth unless the child has allergies. Diapers and staff gloves are disposed of in a diaper pail.
- Cups and eating utensils are not shared with others.

Medication

- The parent that provides permission and delineates specific instructions for administration of medication must sign an authorization form. No medication is administered without written parent authorization.
- The medication must be in its original container with the child's name on it. Prescription medications must have child's name, drug name, dosage, directions for administering, date prescribed and doctor's name.
- All medications given will be recorded in the medical log.
- Medications will be kept in a secured location away from the children. Refrigerated medication will be kept in a locked box in the refrigerator.
- Missed medication dosages or other problems related to medication are communicated to parents immediately.

Sanitation of Toys & Equipment

- All toys and equipment are wiped down and washed on a daily basis with a bleach water solution. Toys that are put in a child's mouth are immediately removed after the child has put it down and placed in a wash bin. Eating surfaces are sanitized before and after use.

Health Care Continued

Rest Periods

Children under the age of 5, who are in the Center for more than four hours, are given the opportunity to rest or nap. If a child does not nap after 30 minutes, they will be allowed to get up and have quiet activities.

Sleeping / SIDS Risk Reduction

According to State Licensing Mandate on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), when children under one year of age are put to sleep, the following procedures are instituted:

- No toys of any kind will be in crib with the child
- No blankets will be used
- Child will be placed on their back unless there is a signed note from pediatrician

Staff Health Requirements

Staff will obtain a medical examination within 12 months prior or within 30 days after beginning work at the Center. The exam shall indicate the staff is free from communicable diseases that present a safety or health risk and is physically able to work with children. The exam will also include a TB test.

Transportation

- If the child is not present and they have not reported absent, the parents are contacted immediately to verify the absence. If the parent cannot be reached, the school will be contacted.
- When children are transported to and from Kindergarten by a private van or public school bus, a roster is provided to the driver. When the JCC provides transportation, a roster is also supplied to the school.
- Parents of children in the K4 and 3 year old program are required to sign a Transportation Permission Form (DCF 251.08) to keep on file. This is for regularly scheduled transportation to our Whitefish Bay location.
- Any child with limited mobility or special needs will be escorted onto the bus first and secured in place.
- Parents are notified ahead of time in writing about fieldtrips and are required to sign a fieldtrip permission slip (DCF 251.04(4)(a)4 and 251.04(6)(a)4) prior to the field trip.

****See Transportation Appendix for additional Protocols and Permission Slips****

Nutrition Policy

Breakfast & Snacks

- Sample menus for breakfast and snacks are posted and based on seasonal fruits and availability.
- Each meal provides one-third of the daily nutritional requirement for children and includes a variety of foods.
- Center provided breakfast consists of fruit, grain, and dairy as delineated in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Care Food Program guidelines.
- All breakfast and snacks provided are kosher.
- Parents are to provide lunch for their children and presented with healthy lunch guidelines as appropriate.
- A snack provided by the parents for all children must be confirmed by the teacher and ingredients posted in an area accessible to all parents. The snack must be prepackaged, kosher and nut free.

Laws of Kashrut (keeping kosher) in Gan Ami

The JCC is proud to provide an inclusive environment for members, guests, and families. For many members of our community, the laws of Kashrut (keeping kosher) represent a core Jewish belief. Out of respect for all of our families, we ask that you follow these simple guidelines when packing lunches.

- Lunches may contain meat items **or** dairy items, but not both.
- Please do not pack any pork products or shellfish.
- Nuts are NOT allowed in Gan Ami.

Suggestions for creative and healthy kosher-style lunches from home in Gan Ami

- MEAT LUNCH: If you pack a turkey or roast beef sandwich, just leave off the cheese. Likewise, the lunch bag should not include any dairy items like yogurt, string cheese, or pudding.
- DAIRY LUNCH: Mini bagels and cream cheese, cold cheese sandwich, or leftover mac 'n cheese can anchor a nice dairy lunch.
- OTHER (pareve): Sandwiches like egg salad, tuna salad, or a veggie wrap can go with either meat or dairy items.
- Add-ins to put in your child's lunch that go with either meat or dairy include fruit, veggies, applesauce, hummus, chips, pretzels, or juice.

Nutrition Policy Continued

Meal Routines

- Meals are opportunities for socialization and learning. Therefore, children eat in their classroom groups and are encouraged to serve themselves as appropriate.
- Staff sit with children when they are eating.
- Meals or snacks are never used as a means of punishment or reward.
- All children wash their hands before and after meals and snacks.
- To minimize waiting, set-up is complete while children are cleaning up toys and materials. Transition playtime is built into the schedule to allow children to finish eating at their own pace and wash hands.

Allergies & Special Diets

- Allergies are closely monitored. The child's allergy information from the enrollment forms are posted in every classroom and reviewed regularly.
- All special diets are honored.
- All snacks brought in by parents to be shared must be kosher and labeled kosher.

Food Safety Practices

Perishable Foods

Foods are maintained at temperatures delineated by State licensing guidelines. A visible thermometer is located in each cold storage to assure appropriate temperature. All food will be covered, labeled and dated.

Non-perishable Foods

Foods are stored in clean, dry, ventilated areas and stored in appropriate food containers with tight fitting lids. All foods are labeled and dated.

Sanitation

Eating surfaces are washed before and after eating

All cleaning chemicals and supplies are kept out of reach of children

Nutrition Policy Continued

Infant/Toddler Nutrition Policy

- Parents are responsible for providing formula, milk, milk substitutes or breast milk. The center will rinse bottles. Parents should wash bottles at home.
- Parents provide solid food daily and an eating schedule for their child. Feeding information including what introduction of new foods are updated a minimum of every three months.
- Finger foods that encourage self-eating are provided, as well as child friendly eating utensils. For toddlers 12 months and older, the Center provides appropriate morning and afternoon snacks including whole milk.
- Infant seats, high chairs, low tables and chairs are provided when eating.
- Babies are always held when bottle feeding until they are able to hold their own bottle.
- The center has a supply of spoons and cups.
- Children are offered water several times a day in accordance with parent's wishes.
- Parents receive a daily record of the child's basic needs, which includes food intake. This record is easily available for staff and parent reference through the Remini app (see more in Communication section).
- Milk and other perishable food are refrigerated. Nonperishable foods are stored in covered containers in clean dry areas.
- Food brought in by parents is labeled and dated and stored in a thermal lunchbox with an cold pack.
- NO unused food will be returned home.

Nutritional Education

- Programs that highlight nutrition and healthy eating habits are incorporated into the early childhood curriculum.
- Programs and procedures of how to introduce nutrition concepts to young children are addressed through staff in-services.

Schedule of Snacks and Meals

Snacks and meals are provided according to the following schedule:

<u>Time Present</u>	<u>Number of Meals/Snacks</u>
2-2(1/2) to 4 hours	1 snack
4-8 hours	1 snack & 1 meal
8-10 hours	2 snacks & 1 meal
10+ hours	2 meals & 2-3 snacks

Orientation and Ongoing Professional Development

All staff and volunteers are required to go through an extensive orientation within one month of beginning employment. The orientation must be completed before any staff member is left alone with a child. In the orientation, the following areas will be covered:

- Licensing Rules DFS 46
- Review of Center Policies Handbook
- YoungStar/NAC Regulations
- Confidentiality
- Child abuse and neglect recognition and reporting
- Health observation and precautions, medication, universal precautions, infectious disease control, and communicable disease recognition.
- Recognizing Illnesses
- Center contingency plans including fire and tornado evacuation plans and the operation of fire extinguishers.
- Procedure for sharing information related to a child's special health care needs including any physical, emotional, social or cognitive disabilities
- Information on any special needs a child enrolled in Gan Ami may have and the plan for how those needs will be met.
- Procedure to contact a parent if a child is absent from Gan Ami without prior notification from the parent
- Emergency training including pediatric first aid, and CPR/AED
- Working with Families with diverse backgrounds.
- Job Responsibilities/Duties as they relate to job descriptions
- Schedule of Activities of center
- Child management techniques used at Gan Ami
- Knowing children's whereabouts at all times / Global Supervision
- Hand washing Procedures
- Shaken Baby Syndrome / SIDS
- A copy of the JCC employee handbook
- Jewish Holidays and traditions

Orientation and Ongoing Professional Development Continued

In-service Training

- Gan Ami provides a minimum of five full days of training annually as well as monthly staff meetings. CPR, First Aide Training and Universal Precautions, Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher use, Child Abuse and Neglect, Medical Log Entry Directions, how to administer medication, how to use an Epi Pen are provided annually and required by all staff. Other in-service opportunities are related to child development and how to work effectively with diverse families, and teaching in an early childhood setting.
- Every year the JCC holds a mandatory all-staff professional development and training for all departments at the JCC together.

Continuing Education

- All staff is required to obtain at least twenty-five hours of continuing education hours per year. These hours may be obtained through CPR training, staff meetings, and in-service training provided by the Early Childhood department. Staff is also encouraged to attend conferences and workshops related to early childhood education throughout the community. With prior approval, staff will receive work release time to attend outside conferences and workshops.
- Staff are required to attend a monthly Jewish value or holiday session with our school's Judaic Educator Rabbi Shari Shamah.

Documentation of Continuing Education

Teachers are required to document their continuing education hours on standardized forms and place them in personnel files.

Personnel Policy

- Job descriptions are given to each staff when hired.
- Reflective supervision appointments are set with the Site Manager and each teacher.
- Evaluations are completed annually and include input from staff and delineation of goals for the upcoming year.
- All staff receives a letter of intent that delineates work hours, meeting responsibilities and required ongoing education.
- Staff receives breaks based on the number of hours they work according to State employment regulations.
- Vacation, sick leave and paid holidays are based on the number hours of employment per week and are delineated in the employment handbook.
- Corrective action may be considered if the employee's behavior affects the quality of delivery of service to children and attempts at remediation have been unsuccessful.
- Corrective action may be considered if the employee does not follow proper protocol regarding Gan Ami policies or the agency overall.
- Grievances require a written explanation and a decision by the Executive Director.
- All caregivers will complete a background check disclosure form when hired and each year thereafter.

Procedures of Reporting Child Abuse

- In the event that a staff person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, the staff person is required by law to notify the County Department of social services or human services or the appropriate law enforcement agencies.
- Fill out an incident report with the facts and record it in the Medical Log.
- The leadership team member and teacher will immediately notify the County Social Services Department, Protective Services. This agency will conduct the investigation and give further instructions.
- The leadership team member will notify the Program Executive or if unavailable, the Center Executive.
- All staff will receive training on child abuse and neglect law, how to identify abuse and neglect and procedures for reporting prior to working with children.

Required Notifications

- All staff required to notify the licensee, and the licensee to notify department, as soon as possible but no later than the next business day when: the employee has been convicted of a crime; has or is being investigated by any governmental agency; has a substantiated governmental finding against them for abuse or neglect of a child or adult or for misappropriation of a client's property; or has a professional license denied, revoked, restricted or otherwise limited.

APPENDIX 1: Transportation

- Gan Ami uses attendance lists that have a 2-column check-off for entering & exiting the vehicle with their class
- If JCC vehicle is used, driver checks seat-belts
- If teachers are with children, they sit with their students
- Count and check-off as children enter the vehicle
- Count and check-off as children exit the vehicle
- Designated staff person walks through vehicle for final sweep after each stop
- All vehicles used are equipped with "Back door alarms and Child Safety Alarms"
- First Aid kit is located in front dash of JCC vehicle

APPENDIX 2: Missing Child Procedure

Gan Ami WFB: Follow Lost Child Procedures in the HRS Family JCC Emergency Procedures Handbook

GAN AMI Mequon:

Definition: When a child is reported missing in the building the following procedures are to be implemented:

Alert Signal

"Attention all Gan Ami Staff, we have a lost child Alert. One teacher from each classroom should report to the Front Desk.

Staff Reporting the Lost Person:

1. Assess the situation
2. Office announces lost child/person via overhead PAGE
3. Staff making the call should gather as much information as possible.
-Detailed description of the missing child/person (i.e.: name, age, clothing, hair color and any other distinguishing characteristics), how long the person has been missing and the last location seen.
4. Immediately Report to the Front desk.
5. Organize and coordinate the search by building area/outside area
6. If the missing person(s) are not located during the initial search by staff members or if there is any indication that foul play or a dangerous situation is involved, call 911 and notify law enforcement officials immediately. Then call the parents and Executive Leadership.
7. Request that law enforcement officials, parents/guardians to search the residence where the students(s) live, school, etc. Missing children have frequently been found hiding in closets, attics and in other areas at home.
8. Provide information for staff as appropriate.
9. Assist law enforcement officers with the investigation.
10. **All Staff members** should carefully search his or her area of responsibility for the missing child(ren). Any potential hiding place should be searched, including crawl spaces, rest rooms, storage closets, cabinets and storage containers. Missing children have frequently been found hiding in these types of areas.
11. Staff members should advise the Site Director and JCC Executive Leadership of the results of the search as soon as the search is completed.

Appendix 3: Jewish Values and Holidays

Child Education and Religious Values Teachings

The JCC Early Childhood Program is a Jewish preschool and childcare facility that prides itself on having a diverse population of both participants and staff.

Our curriculum includes learning about Jewish holidays, values, traditions and customs. We celebrate both Shabbat*, the day of rest, as well as Havdalah, each week. Using symbols and traditions, the customs of the holidays come alive.

Some of our core Jewish values include:
Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming the guest)
G'milut Hasdim (acts of loving kindness)
Ahavah (love)
Tikkun Olam (repairing the world)
Shmirat HaGuf (Respecting our bodies)
B'tzelem Elohim (We're all created in the image of God)
Hitorrut (Awakening)

Our values, which transcend beyond religious lines, are incorporated into our classrooms and community on a continual basis and we strive to remember them as we relate to one another in community.

As a Jewish school, our calendar revolves around the Jewish calendar rather than the secular calendar. As such, we ask that families and staff refrain from celebrating holidays such as Halloween, Valentine's Day, St' Patrick's Day, Christmas and Easter at school.

We appreciate that families may celebrate these holidays at home, and we ask that the celebrations remain there. Holiday treats, cards, costumes are encouraged to be used at home and not in Gan Ami.

The exception is Purim, the Jewish holiday when costumes and the giving of cards and treats (called Shelach Manot) are part of the celebration.

* Shabbat is a Day of Rest discussed in the Torah. God tells us to work hard for 6 days and then on the 7th rest and appreciate family, community and the gift of Shabbat. We light candles, say a blessing over sweet wine (Kiddush), bless the children and eat Challah, a sweet fortified bread. It is customary on Shabbat to rest, attend synagogue and enjoy meals with family or friends.

Jewish Holidays

Here is a brief description of the major Jewish holidays celebrated during the year:

The first is **Rosh Hashanah**, which literally means “the head of the new year.” This is our Jewish New Year. It’s also the beginning of the Ten Days of Repentance; a time we turn inward to examine our mistakes over the past year and seek to make amends with ourselves, friends and family, and ultimately, with God.

Next comes **Yom Kippur**, the Day of Atonement when we stand before God and publicly and privately confess our shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. Yom Kippur is a fast day which helps remind us of the awesomeness and importance of the day.

We have a four-day break and then comes **Sukkot**, the Festival of Booths, when we erect temporary dwellings outside to serve as a reminder that our permanent shelters are fragile, and we have much for which we can be grateful.

The end of Sukkot is **Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah** when we turn towards Torah, the Five Books of Moses. On Simchat Torah, we read the last words of the Book of Deuteronomy and the First words of Genesis.

Hanukkah is the Festival of lights. It is an 8-day festival during which we recall the Maccabees and their religious conviction. Standing up to the Greek Hellenists, they won a battle that allowed the Jews to go in and clean and re-dedicate the Holy Temple. Worried that the one cruze of oil they found wouldn’t last long enough to clean the Temple, a miracle occurred and the oil lasted 8 nights. On Hanukkah we light a candelabra (called a Menorah) and celebrate light and freedom.

Tu Bishvat is the Birthday of the Trees. On this holiday on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat we stop and appreciate nature. We eat fruits and vegetables that grow on trees and think of ways we can reduce, recycle and help protect our precious universe.

Purim is a holiday that reminds us to take a break from the pressures of everyday life and let silliness and play teach us about the bravery of Queen Esther, the ideals of Mordechai and the ability to defeat those that are out to hurt us, like Haman. We dress in costume and give acts of kindness called Shelach Manot to our family and friends.

Passover teaches us to celebrate Freedom. We recall the story of the Jews leaving Egypt. To remind us that they had to leave in a hurry, we eat unleavened bread, called Matzah for 8 days of this holiday. The first two days have a Passover Seder when we tell the story of the Exodus and teach our children what it was like to go forth to Freedom so that in every generation our children will appreciate the gifts of freedom, family and community.

Yom Ha’atzmaut is Israeli Independence Day. We celebrate that in 1948 the State of Israel came into being and allowed the Jewish people to have a homeland.

Shavuot reminds us of the Gift of Torah. We tell the story of Moses receiving the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai. Shavuot is a dairy holiday where we enjoy foods like cheesecake, kugel and ice cream. It is also a night to stay up and study.