

Temple Akiba ECC Parent Handbook 2023-2024



**Temple Akiba Early Childhood Center
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310-398-9781**

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July 2023,

Dear Temple Akiba Early Childhood Center Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year. I would like to welcome everyone to Temple Akiba ECC, especially those who are joining us for the first time. I hope you have been enjoying your summer and are as excited as we are about your family being a part of TA ECC during the 2023-2024 year.

At Temple Akiba Early Childhood Center, we know that your children are the leaders of tomorrow. We also know their success in school (and in life) requires a broad range of **social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual** competencies. We are thrilled to partner with you this year to create the foundation your children will need to succeed in every area of life.

We are a community of learners preparing to face the challenges of a new generation collaboratively, creatively, and with strong Jewish values, compassion, and Tikkun Olam. We do this by providing a curriculum that addresses the needs of the *whole* child. We cultivate intrinsic motivation, a passion for learning, and creative and critical thinking skills by engaging children in authentic and meaningful learning opportunities. We embrace each child's unique and natural ways of learning. We value social responsibility as highly as personal responsibility. And we provide children with the foundational educational skills to be successful when they leave us.

In our school, children play an active role in constructing the curriculum. Learning is situated in real-world problem-solving and authentic experiences. Teachers and families work in effective collaboration to provide guidance, helping children discover passion and intrinsic motivation for learning. Children are supported in learning at their own pace. As a result, learning becomes deeply integrated into children's hearts and minds.

Our school is your family's first educational setting outside the home. We want this experience to nurture a deep love for learning, a lasting connection to the Jewish community, and the foundational skills for lifelong learning that will launch your children toward their highest potential. We thank you for the opportunity to join you and your family on these first steps of your educational journey.

Our first day of school is **Monday, August 28th**. **All of the included forms must be completed and returned to the TA ECC office by Monday, August 14th, or earlier) in order for your child to begin school.** *By law, we will not be able to allow children into class on the first day of school if we do not have all the completed and updated forms.*

On behalf of our entire staff, we look forward to sharing the coming school year with your entire family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time by email at religiousschool@templeakiba.net or by 310.398.9781. We look forward to a wonderful new school year for your children.

B'Shalom



Randee Bishoff
Director of Education
Temple Akiba Early Childhood Center

Temple Akiba Mission Statement

Temple Akiba's Mission is to embrace you and deepen your Jewish identity through Torah, Justice and Community. Together we are committed to bringing goodness into the world. At Temple Akiba, ***Our Light Shines Brighter Together***.

Our Vision is Providing you with a Center for Jewish Life.

We strive to achieve our Mission and Vision through our six core purposes:

- The conduct of Jewish religious services
- The provision of Jewish religious education
- The enhancement and fostering of cultural and spiritual welfare
- The advancement of a liberal interpretation of Jewish traditions
- The service as a Jewish voice in the local community
- A vehicle for bringing justice into the world through Tikkun Olam

Temple Akiba ECC Philosophy

Temple Akiba Early Childhood Center is a place where teachers, parents, children, Rabbi Zachary R. Shapiro and Cantor Lonee Frailich join together to build a strong Jewish-inspired community.

Collaboratively, we have created an environment where all children, from many cultures and backgrounds, are welcome to be themselves, excite their curiosity, explore the many languages of the world around them, and have the freedom to choose the areas of their interest from a variety of thought-provoking activities. Our community of teachers and parents share a common belief that together we can establish an environment of strong identity and belonging, where sharing and exchanging our knowledge and resources with each other becomes a process of our daily routine.

Our philosophy weaves together the most recent child development theories. When combined, they create a harmonious and sensible, developmentally appropriate curriculum. We allow children to explore and develop their emotional, physical, cognitive, and social qualities at their own pace.

Starting from the age of 18 months and transitioning through the age of five, we focus our teaching styles on developing healthy habits. We facilitate and promote appropriate social skills, close friendships, communication and language skills, self-expression, positive self-esteem, physical growth (fine and gross motor skills), and respect for one another. We pride ourselves in the way that we value each child's abilities and potential, listen to their amazing ideas, and help create a map of knowledge for them to explore at their own pace so they can achieve success.

Our main goal is to meet the needs of each individual child, parent, and teacher. Together, we strive to create a supportive, nurturing, and cognitively inviting environment.

Temple Akiba ECC Non-discrimination Statement

Temple Akiba ECC admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Our school does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, sexual orientation or identification, or national or ethnic origin, in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, or other school programs. Our school is licensed by the Department of Social Services. Facility No. 191603520

About our Early Childhood Center

At the Temple Akiba ECC, children are taught in small groups. We maintain a high ratio of adults to children to ensure that children receive responsive attention and support. Daily activities include a balanced program of indoor/outdoor, quiet/active, teacher-directed/child-initiated, and planned/emergent experiences. Classrooms are equipped with materials that encourage expression, exploration, creativity, construction, imaginative play, and communication. Our program includes participation from our community of families, synagogue clergy, community helpers, and specialists. Our emergent curriculum is grounded in Midot (Jewish values) such as Tzedakah (charity), Chesed (kindness), and Tikkun Olam (healing the world).

The teaching staff is specially trained in child development and age-appropriate Jewish Education. Our teachers are dedicated and committed professionals, many of whom have been with us for more than a decade. Our outstanding staff creates an environment that is warm, nurturing, and supportive. We encourage open communication between your home and school. Family involvement plays an essential role in the success of our program.

Preschool Hours

Half Day: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Full Day: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM (4:30 PM on Fridays)

Optional Early Drop-Off Hours

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Drop-off/Pick-up Procedures

We will be using the back entrance along the alley as an entry/exit point in the mornings and the front (Sepulveda) entrance as an entry/exit point in the afternoons.

Our school's policy requires that each parent and or designated adult walk their child safely from the parking lot into the school premises and into the classrooms. The law requires that each person who accompanies his/her child must sign in and sign out daily. The sign-in forms are available digitally on the Playground App in the student's classroom. Any person to pick up a child from school must be on the approved list in the child's file. If someone other than the approved list of people is going to pick up your child, you must email permission to the school with the person's name. This person must bring ID at pick up to verify.

Children enrolled in the half-day program are to be picked up at or before 1:00 PM. Children enrolled in the full-day program are to be picked up at or before 5:30 PM Monday - Thursday and at or before 4:30 PM on Fridays.

If you are having an ISOLATED emergency situation and will not be able to pick up your child on time call the school at **310-398-9781**. Please do not email or send a message through the app, we are not always at our desks.

Late Fee Policy

Pick-up time is exactly at or before 5:30 PM Monday - Thursday and 4:30 PM on Fridays. When a parent picks up his/her child later than 5:30 pm (or 4:30 pm Fridays) a LATE FEE will be administered. In addition, if your child is in the half-day program, they must be picked up exactly at or before 1:00 PM. When a parent picks up his/her child later than 1:00 PM, a LATE FEE will be administered.

The school grants two 15-minute grace periods per school year. On the third time, a \$1 charge per minute will be billed to your Shul Cloud account for each additional minute that a parent is late.

Parking

You may park in the surrounding neighborhood or in the Centinela Feed lot along the wall facing the Temple or the wall facing the Alley and then walk through the alley to the entrance, where a guard will be posted. The Alley will be blocked off to cars during drop-off hours and a walkway will be maintained. Our goal is to reduce exposure to walking alongside the busy street for our little ones (particularly as construction across the street begins) as well as decrease visibility to the public during morning drop-off. Maintaining the safety of our families is a priority for us, and we feel these measures will help increase all-around safety for you and your children.

Sign-in and Sign-out

Parents/guardians are responsible for signing their child/ren in and out each day through the Playground app. State law mandates this system of accountability and security for preschool children. **The full legible signature of the responsible adult (over 18 years old)** who is listed as an Authorized Pick-up on Playground or on your child's Emergency Contact Form.

Medical and Health Forms

All forms must be completed and filed in the ECC main office per California State licensing prior to a school start. **Your child cannot attend school without all completed forms.**

Health and Safety Policies

Keeping your child healthy and out of harm's way is TA ECC's first priority. We require all children and parents to either use hand sanitizer or wash their hands before entering their classroom in the morning. The children will be washing their hands after each activity, using the restrooms, before and after meals, and frequently throughout the day. All TA ECC staff are CPR and First Aid trained.

In order to assure a healthy environment, parents are required to adhere to the school's health policy regulations. It is against the school's policy to have your child attend school while sick. **As Health concerns continue to change, Temple Akiba continually reviews our policies and makes changes throughout the year.**

Sick Policy

We thank you in advance for being overly cautious when it comes to illness. Please keep sick children at home.

Illness symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough and/or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Severe rash throughout the body
- Severe stomach pain
- Excessive runny nose accompanied by green mucus
- Infected open sores
- Severe allergies to food or objects
- Pink Eye
- Vomiting
- Head lice
- Additional COVID Symptoms: fatigue, muscle soreness, loss of taste, etc.

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms of illness while at school, you will be asked to pick them up immediately. Children experiencing these symptoms must remain home for at least 24 hours until symptoms subside. Children must also be fever-free, vomit-free, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to school. In some circumstances, we may also require a negative COVID test in order to return to school.

Should your child continue to show signs of sickness when returning to school, the director will use their discretion to notify the parent, at which point they would have to pick up the child from school. If your child develops any of the above symptoms while attending school, he/she will be taken to the isolation area to be comforted until a parent is able to pick up the child from school.

Other Communicable Illnesses

If your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness including, but not limited to, Hand Foot & Mouth, Strep-Throat, RSV, Flu, Whooping Cough, and Pink Eye, please notify our office right away. We will make the necessary arrangements for deep cleaning, and, with discretion, notify the families in your classroom. If your child is at school and we suspect he/she has contracted any of the above illnesses/diagnoses (or others) or presents associated symptoms, we will call home and ask that your child be picked up immediately and then seen by his/her physician. **Your child may return to school only with an “all-clear” note from his/her pediatrician and symptom-free for 24 hours**

While illness is a natural part of school life, we operate with an abundance of care and err on the side of caution. We appreciate your sensitivity and cooperation.

Allergies

Parents MUST notify the school immediately of any allergies. TA ECC has chosen to be a nut-free school. TA ECC does not serve nut-based foods, nor do we allow the sharing of food items between children.

Lice

Head lice are a part of all school environments. Learn to check your child regularly for symptoms of itching scalp or the pearl-shaped egg. The staff will check children in school for head lice when necessary. A child with head lice, (as well as their siblings), will be sent home immediately. Children who are treated for lice will need to show documentation that they have received treatment, are free of any nits, and be checked by our school personnel prior to returning to the classroom.

Accidents

Any major accident will be reported to parents immediately. (It is essential that your contact information is current at all times!) Minor accidents (such as scrapes or non-incidental falls) will be reported to the person picking up the child. Accidents are recorded on an "Ouch Report" filed in the office and a copy is sent home. If there is blood, major bruising, or a head injury occurs, we will notify families immediately. A child requiring emergency professional medical treatment will have that treatment as quickly as possible, at the facility designated by the parent or guardian on the emergency treatment form, or at the nearest hospital emergency room.

Medication

The ECC will not dispense medication unless mandated for a specific cause by your child's pediatrician. All medication must be brought to the school office and cannot be left with a classroom teacher. Medicine must have an unaltered, authorized prescription label, with the specific child's name on it (no siblings names), not be expired, and showing the doctor's name and specific directions for storage and dispensing. The parent or guardian must fill out the Medication Authorization Form for each medication the child is to take. We cannot administer over-the-counter medicines.

Immunization Policy

No student will be allowed to attend Temple Akiba ECC without documentation verifying the completion of all childhood vaccinations in accordance with California State law SB 277. This policy applies to any student who is unvaccinated due to personal belief, regardless of age or grade. Students with a medical condition that prevents them from being safely vaccinated may apply for a medical exemption. **Effective January 1, 2021, all new medical exemptions (MEs) must be issued through the CAIR-ME website.**

<https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions/home> We have policies in place should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur, any child who is not immunized for this disease will be required to either obtain the proper medical immunizations or stay home for a period of 21 days. This is for the safety of all children in the school both those immunized and not.

Emergency Preparedness

Safety is of utmost importance at the ECC. A comprehensive emergency plan has been developed with regular fire and disaster drills. Every year, we review our process, protocol, and drills and adjust as needed. In the event of an emergency, we can call upon our drills/practice to keep our students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus safe.

In the event of a disaster, the school will follow all emergency protocols, which include supervision and a dismissal policy. In case of a medical emergency, all attempts will be made to contact families as soon as possible. Additional Emergency supplies for a 72-hour period for each child are located outside the building if necessary.

We hold alternating drills for emergency events such as fire, earthquake, and lockdown every month. These drills follow emergency protocols set by the Temple following Culver City Police guidance.

In the unlikely event of a true emergency, parents will receive instructions via a text/email about where and when to pick up their child. **You may only pick up students on your emergency contact list, and only adults on your emergency list may pick up your child.** Please make sure all emergency contact information for your family remains current and updated. TA ECC Emergency Exit Plan is posted in the hallway on the parents' board. In the event of a major disaster, TA ECC and all working Temple staff will make sure that the children's immediate safety and evacuation measures are their first priority. Once all the children are safe and accounted for, the parents will be notified.

Supporting Behavior and Development

Temple Akiba ECC is dedicated to providing an environment that promotes a child's physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual development. Our low child-to-teacher ratio allows us to maintain an environment that is both emotionally and physically safe for children and adults. Because we work in partnership with our families, please help us set a positive example through your behavior.

We understand that all behaviors at this age, positive and negative, have a function. Children exhibiting inappropriate behaviors are usually trying to escape something (i.e. an activity such as circle time) or to obtain something (i.e. a toy or attention from a classmate or teacher). It is important to our teaching staff that we determine the reason for a child's behavior so that we can teach an appropriate replacement skill to help the child get his/her desired result. Our early childhood teachers will take the time to speak with students about their feelings that led to inappropriate behavior. Preschoolers will be encouraged to use their words to express their feelings and solve their problems. Staff will help students verbalize their feelings and facilitate conflict resolution and problem-solving when necessary.

Preschool teaching staff strive to maintain consistent and open communication with families regarding the progress of their students. You may be notified of minor behavioral incidents in the following ways: email, telephone, written communication or in person. For more serious incidents, you may be asked to come in and or virtual meeting to discuss the incident or pattern of behaviors with your child's teacher and/or the Director. The connection between home and school is very important, and children must understand that we are all communicating and working together.

In the event that a child acts out in an aggressive manner (including but not limited to hitting, biting, scratching, yelling obscenities, spitting) that regularly disrupts the learning or safety of others, the family will be notified and together with classroom teachers, ECC Administration will create an age-appropriate Action Plan.

In other instances, at the discretion of the school, a child may be required to undergo a developmental assessment by an outside specialist provider at the family's expense. Administration and classroom teachers will work together with families and outside providers to determine appropriate support, accommodations, and/or services (including but not limited to one-on-one companionship, occupational therapy, and speech therapy). In these circumstances, the following of such recommendations shall be a requirement for the child's attendance. Such recommendations must be fulfilled at the family's expense. Cases of financial hardship will be reviewed by ECC Administration, but such review does not obligate the ECC to provide financial aid for such accommodations.

If circumstances dictate that a child requires more support than can be reasonably provided by the school, or the student's family is unable or unwilling to provide the accommodations at their own expense, Temple Akiba ECC reserves the right to ask the child to leave the program.

Biting Policy (and other physical behaviors)

At the ECC we are concerned for the safety and well-being of every child. We understand each child develops at his or her own rate and in his or her own way. It is our goal to provide a nurturing and safe environment for every child enrolled in our program. Because we view each child as a special and unique individual, we try to set policies that reflect our understanding of what is appropriate behavior at each child's developmental level.

A common concern in early childhood centers is the issue of biting. Biting is developmentally appropriate for toddlers and children in their early preschool years. Before children have developed strong language skills, they often communicate physically. They may shove, push or bite. It is important to remember that at this age, they do not have a social conscience as we know it. They may recognize that when they bite, the receiver cries. However, they likely may not yet comprehend all social consequences. It is our job as early childhood educators, and yours as parents, to help them to understand the consequences of their actions.

With older toddlers and preschoolers, biting may be a sign of frustration, speech delays, over-stimulation, and/or inability to verbally communicate these frustrations or emotional concerns.

If a child bites regularly or engages in repeated physically aggressive behavior (more than once a week or once a week on a regular basis) or if s/he bites (shoves, pushes, hits) severely at any time, the teachers will sit together with the ECC's Administration to create a developmentally appropriate Action Plan.

In some circumstances, the Director may determine that it is in the best interest of the child to leave the program for the remainder of the day.

It may be necessary to ask the parent or guardian to withdraw the child from the preschool for one of the following reasons:

- Biting (or other physically aggressive behavior) occurrences have not diminished
- Incident is the final incident in a succession of aggressive behaviors that are harmful to the child and/or other children/staff at the center
- If in conjunction with the family, teachers and Director it is determined that the ECC is unable to provide the services that the child requires (e.g., Special language or speech support, additional staffing, etc.) If this situation occurs,
- Re-enrollment of the child may be considered with appropriate intervention as determined by the Director.

Parents as Partners

Kindness is our chosen mode of communication here at the ECC. We are committed to teaching children to use effective problem-solving skills and peaceful conflict-resolution strategies. And we practice what we preach! We guarantee that our staff will communicate with you respectfully at all times, and we expect the same from our families. Parents and guardians are expected to speak to and regard all staff members and children respectfully at all times.

Please review the following expectations:

- Communication is essential for children's development and positive experiences at school. If families have questions regarding their child they should first contact their teachers, and then follow up with an administrator.
- Inappropriate adult interaction with children (unwanted touching, yelling, foul language) will not be tolerated and may result in a family's immediate expulsion from the school with no tuition refund.
- Concerns about a classmate's behavior should be brought to the attention of teachers first and then administrators. Confronting children and parents in person or through social media is not permitted and will not be tolerated.
- It is imperative that parents show respect and cooperation toward ECC staff, faculty, parents, students, parking attendants, security guards, and custodians at all times.

General School Policies

Meals & Snacks

- ***We are a Nut-Free school. Please do not pack any nut products in your child's lunch. (Soy-nut butter and sunflower butter are acceptable alternatives.)***
- We are also Kosher-style. **Please do not pack any pork or shellfish products in your child's lunch.**
- TA ECC provides snack for the children twice a day, once during the morning program and once in the afternoon extended program.
- Families should provide a lunch each day (except Fridays)
- Pizza is provided on Fridays but please send a lunch every other day
- No food from home will be stored in our refrigerators, all lunches need an ice pack to keep items cold
- All containers holding the children's food, must NOT be made of glass
- If a child does not want to eat the ECC provided snack, they have the option to choose a snack provided by their parent from their lunchbox.
- Please take the time to ask your child daily what they would like for lunch. By involving your child in the lunch preparation process, you are eliminating the possibility of him/her disliking it.
- We strongly discourage the servings of sweets, candy, and other junk foods. These items often make others want them while refusing to eat their own lunch. Each class has a microwave. If needed we are happy to warm up any food that you send with your child.

Parent Communication

Temple Akiba will be using the Playground app to communicate with parents. This tool will also be used to sign your child in and out of school, share photos, messages, newsletters, and much more to tell the story of your child and daily happenings at school. You will be receiving an email invitation inviting you to sign up for "Playground", where you can register yourself and other adults as designated pick-up people. Playground is the latest in technology and communication for early childhood education. It is similar to a Facebook page, but it is a closed, secure communications platform that is tailored to your individual child. With Playground, we will be able to constantly share information with you about your child's class. You will be able to access Playground from your computer or you can download as an App to your smartphone or tablet. We recommend downloading the app to your phone for the easiest access as you will be using Playground to sign your child into school and pick them up.

You can use the Playground app to directly message your child's teachers. Please note that the teachers may not have time to check Playground at all times throughout the day. Please allow them time to respond. If you have an urgent matter or are running late for pick-up please contact the school office at (310) 398-9781. Please do not use Playground if you are running late, please call.

We would appreciate it if you would sign up as soon as you receive the invitation e-mail. While both parents will be invited to create a profile for your child, we recommend having one parent create your child's profile and then adding the second parent to that profile. Once your child has begun school, you should expect to see pictures uploaded about twice a week, weekly updates on the happenings in the class, as well as if there are any of your child's items that need replenishing (i.e. diapers).

Friday Morning Shabbat Celebration

TA ECC celebrates Shabbat every Friday morning in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM throughout the school year. Our Shabbat celebrations are a fun-filled family experience with Rabbi Shapiro and his guitar, a dinosaur puppet named Ishkabeble, Cantor Lonee, and all of the TA ECC children and teachers. We all gather together to honor the Shabbat Yeleds (boys) and Yaldahs (girls). All family members are welcome to join us in bringing in the Shabbat with songs, prayers, and recognition of birthdays.

Holidays

Throughout the school year, TA ECC celebrates many special events. We celebrate religious and national events as well as special events put on only by the ECC. The purpose of celebrating these events is to provide our community with a greater sense of belonging, identity, and togetherness.

TA ECC honors all Jewish and National Holidays. The holidays of Thanksgiving and Chanukah are celebrated by the children and their families with a community feast and performances by the children. Our Passover Seder is led by the Rabbi and Cantor and includes a Seder meal for children and their parents. Other Jewish holidays, such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, and Shavuot are celebrated in the classrooms with the children, staff, and volunteer parents. TA ECC participates in the Temple-wide Purim events, including the Megillah reading and the carnival. Each school year, a calendar will be provided to all families enrolled in our program. Calendar dates can be subject to change.

As a Jewish community, we do not participate in the following holidays: St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, or Halloween.

Birthday Celebration Policy

Birthdays are significant events for us and our children as they symbolize an important passage of time and growth. Here at our school, we try to emphasize and create a festive atmosphere for the birthday child. We sing songs, share our wishes, and recognize his/her special day in the classroom and during the Shabbat celebration. While a child's birthday is often celebrated in the traditional manner of serving sweets and cupcakes, we have adopted new ways of celebrating the birthday child with his/her friends. In lieu of sweets, we encourage our families to donate a book in honor of your child's birthday. Donation of a book by your child will be celebrated with a special reading from you the parent, or by the teacher in the classroom. The book will have a written dedication stating that the book is donated in honor of your child's birthday. Your child's teachers will be able to offer suggestions of books you may want to choose.

What to Bring on the First Day of School

For the classroom

- Reusable water bottle

For the cubby (Please bring these items in a large Ziploc bag - *The outside of the bag and all pieces of clothing should be labeled with your child's name*).

2 pairs of socks

- Extra pair of shoes
- 2 shirts
- 2 shorts/pants
- 2 pairs of underwear (if needed)
- 1 jacket
- 2 masks
- Sunscreen

The clothes will be used in the event of spills, toileting accidents or as a change after outdoor water play.

Potty Training Policy

Students do not need be potty trained to attend TA ECC. The teachers will help assist the students through the potty-training process. The bathrooms at TA ECC have adult sized toilets. While children are potty training, they may bring in potty seats that insert into the toilets to help assist them. Stand-alone potty seats are not permitted. While there are many ways to potty train, for sanitary reasons, children are not permitted to use the "commando style". All children must have undergarments or diapers on at all times.

For the potty, if learning to use the toilet or still in diapers each child needs:

- Supply of diapers
- Package of wipes

**Each child has their own cubby in the bathroom where their individual diapers are kept.*

Nap Time

For children who are in our full-day program, naptime is 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. California State licensing requires us to offer rest time to all of the children. **If your child falls asleep, per our licensing requirements we are not allowed to wake up a child who is asleep. We cannot offer partial naptimes at your request.** If you do not want your child to take a nap you may send quiet activities they can do for 30 minutes of rest time until they can play in the classroom.

For nap time: (Please bring all items clearly labeled in a reusable bag with your child's name on it. Please also label all individual items). *Every Friday, the items listed below will be sent home to be washed and brought back to school on the following Monday morning.*

- Thin toddler size blanket (if needed)
- Travel size pillow (no regular size pillows)
- Crib sheet/toddler-size flat sheet
- Transitional object for your child's naptime

*****If your child runs out of any of these items, a reminder will be sent asking for the needed items. Please remember.**

Clothing

Parents are requested to send children to school in “play clothes.” Daily activities include painting, gluing, sand and water play, and lots of physical activity. Please save special clothes for parties and Shabbat at home. In spite of “washable” paints and markers, clothes will get dirty and may even become stained. Please dress your child so that he or she can enjoy their school experiences fully without fear of getting dirty or wet.

Shoes with non-skid soles are the safest for climbing and outdoor play. Clothing should be washable, comfortable, and easy to put on and take off. Please label all garments! We cannot be responsible for lost clothing or personal items. All found items will be on display at the end of each month.

What to keep at Home

The following items do not belong in school: toy guns (or any toy weapons), costume masks, fragile items, pets, gum, and candy. While we understand that children often want to bring their toys from home to school, it is the policy of TA ECC that **no toys from home be allowed at school**. We have many educational toys and manipulatives to stimulate the children while they are here with us. Toys from home are often a large distraction to children and can lead to disappointment if lost or misplaced. Please help remind your children of this policy and encourage them to keep items at home or in the car until after school.

Class Roster

Class rosters will be distributed at the beginning of the school year. This information is for families, school, and social use – never for marketing or other commercial purposes.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

As part of Temple Akiba’s mission to support green alternatives, we support a Waste-Free Lunch Program. Please join us and take steps to reduce the amount of lunchtime waste generated at school. Provide reusable containers instead of throw-away “bags” whenever possible.

Photography/Photo Release

Photos are posted throughout the year for family members to access. Teachers take pictures and use informal photography regularly as a teaching aid. Please refrain from photographing other children and emailing families. Even with the best intentions, photos without context may send the wrong message. Your digital approval in the online registration form indicates you give permission for your child’s work and/or digital image to be published electronically (**e.g. Email, Facebook, Instagram, Playground, Temple Akiba Web page, etc.**) and/or in print (**e.g. publicity materials and in the classroom**)

ECC Outdoor Classroom

At the ECC, we share the goal to increase the quantity, quality, and benefit of outdoor experiences for children. We carefully curate our playgrounds with materials, spaces, and experiences that promote growth in all domains of development.

Areas of higher risk are supervised closely and children are taught safety rules for materials that require extra care. By allowing these challenges, we raise safety-conscious children who are tuned into their environment, understand their physical limits, and develop an awareness of the risks that they will encounter in the world.

Weather

We see weather as an opportunity to connect with and observe the cycles of nature. We ask that on cold days children are dressed warmly and with the expectation that they will play outside. We will remain indoors if weather hazards exist, such as during a thunderstorm, poor air quality, or on extremely windy days when branches might fall from trees. We do often explore rain with children at the teacher's discretion and ask you to prepare for such days by sending children with a waterproof rain jacket, and extra sets of dry clothes and shoes to change into after outside play.

Water

Water is one of the greatest learning mediums we can offer children. It provides opportunities to refine their scientific thinking as they explore volume, comparison, cause and effect, and hypothesis testing. Additionally, water is incredibly soothing to all humans. It can calm a nervous child, prevent an oncoming tantrum, or even help an adult soak or wash away the stress of the day. We offer water play to children as often as possible, so please prepare accordingly by checking daily for wet clothes and bringing dry replacements the next day.

Sand

Children also have daily access to our sandbox where they experience both wet and dry sand. As sand play often leads to dirty clothes, we ask that you please send children to school in clothes that you expect to get dirty. Please know that when your child gets dirty, it is not because we are not paying attention, it is because we are allowing them to have developmentally appropriate experiences, which they need for proper brain growth. We ask that you help celebrate the work we do with your child by greeting them with joy when you see messy clothes. You can say "Wow, it looks like you really explored a lot today," or "What materials were you investigating here?", but please avoid shameful expressions about mess. They need to get messy as much as they need love, food, and water.

Child Custody and Visitation

Our school adheres strictly to laws regarding custody, visitation, and communication issues that might arise between school and home. For the care and safety of all our students, Temple Akiba ECC adheres to the following rules concerning visitation, custody, and communications:

Temple Akiba is required to have official copies of any court orders related to custody, visitation, communication, etc. as they relate to school or any school-related programs in the child's file. Nearly all of our school-wide communication takes place via email. Every family member is responsible for ensuring that their email info is current and s/he is receiving emails from the school. Temple Akiba will communicate with its members only. It is the family's responsibility to share information with one another. No person shall visit a student on school grounds without the permission of a parent or guardian with appropriate legal status.

No person shall remove a student from the school or the custody of the school without written authorization from a parent or family member with appropriate legal status.

Without limitation, Temple Akiba ECC is mandated to deny any person the right to visit or remove any student from school custody if the school reasonably fears for the safety or the proper guardianship of the child.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in making the Temple Akiba ECC school a safe, kind, and wonderful place to learn. We are always here to help!



Welcome to Temple Akiba ECC!

Please sign below and return to school

I, _____, acknowledge that I have received the Temple Akiba 2023-2024 Parent Handbook. I have read, understand, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement as well as the policies and procedures contained in the Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook.

I acknowledge and agree that any Child and/or Parent who does not abide by the policies and procedures of the school as contained in the Parent Handbook and other ECC publications, as periodically amended, may be excluded from the ECC without refund of any tuition.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date