OUR CREDENTIALS

Certifications

Fully Licensed by NY Office for Children and Family Services

Participating Members of:

JECA (Jewish Early Childhood Association)

ECE-RJ (Early Childhood Education-Reform Judaism)

Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children

The Jewish Education Project

Faculty

Our staff of professional educators are selected for their talents, warmth, and understanding of young children. All of our teachers are required to enroll in workshops and conferences to remain up-to-date with current child development and teaching beliefs/practices.

Head Teachers hold Master Degrees in Education and Early Childhood

Co-teachers hold Bachelor Degrees and a Certificate in Early Childhood Education

Assistant Teachers hold Bachelors Degrees

Rabbi's Shira Milgrom and Tom Weiner, along with Cantor David Rosen, add both a depth and important richness to our program

Facility

Large, spacious, airy and air conditioned classrooms

Three well-equipped outdoor play areas including a state of the art Outdoor Classroom

Extensive indoor play area

Classroom Enrichment

Enrichment experiences include:
Music
Yoga
Israeli Dance
Torah Alive!
Garden
Teva (Nature) Program
Shabbat
Lending Library
Soccer Shots
Artist in Residence Program

Meet Our Director

Nan Blank

MS in Special Education and Early Childhood Development from Bank Street College

Experienced Educator of toddlers, 2's, 3's, 4's, and 5's

Parent Educator

Proud mother of three grown children, and grandmother of five grandchildren.

MEET OUR STAFF

Nan Blank, Director
Lisa Cohen, Administrator
Tracey Schweber, Administrator

FIRST FRIENDS TEACHERS
Nan Blank and Cindy Musoff

OUR 2'S TEACHERS

Laura Abramsky	Debbie Klein
Paula Altneu	Lisa Lawrence
Cheryl Bernstein	Andrea Rosenberg
Jen Boxer	Jodi Ruzumna
Stefanie Greenberg	Barbara Schwartz

OUR 3'S TEACHERS

Erica Baker	Mara Goldberg
Jackie Barrett	Joele Levenson
Lauri Carey	Dorian Nerenberg
Meredith Cohen	Jen Strassler
Allison Fiore	Rori Tamagna

Gerrie Schwartz

OUR 4'S TEACHERS

Erica Berger	Heather Ross
Susan Epstein	Ivy Shapiro
Elisa Goldman	Debbie Youngstein
Becky Miller	Cindy Zieman

OUR *STEP AHEAD!* TEACHERS
Stacy Brodsky, Julie Rabinowitz, and Jen Benalt

OUR SPECIALISTS
Shmulik Gov-Ari, *Dance, Drum, Sing and Play*
Soccer Shots of Westchester
Delores Jiji, *Music*
Shannon Small, *OTR*
Julie Rabinowitz and Pam Pass, *Torah Alive!*
Candice Moscoe Polner, *Teva Educator*
Susan Kohn Arovas, *Garden Educator*
Stefanie Borg, *Leap into Literacy*
Linda Laraqui, *Hip Hop*
Craig Sidley, *Soccer*
Greg Melia, *Martial Arts*
Amy Goldstein, *Marvelous Math*
The Great Charlini Charles Hallock, *Magic*
Mad Science of Westchester
Julia Bordenaro Levin, *The Road to Broadway*
Young at Art of Westchester
Spanish Immersion, *Smart Linguistics of Scarsdale*
Lego with Linda Tedesco, *Kid Brick*
Diana Scharf and Jessica Brown, *Topsy Turvy Yoga*
Sarah Pared Rowen, *CSW*

CONGREGATION KOL AMI
early childhood program

building a community of friends one family at a time

OUR PHILOSOPHY, CURRICULUM, AND PROGRAMS

Warm, Professional Staff
Family-Oriented and Child-Centered

Serving the Westchester Communities for 50 Years

NAN BLANK,DIRECTOR
252 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, New York 10606
914.949.4717 x107
www.nykolami.org

Programs FOR TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS

Our Mission and Values

Our foundation of creating a *caring community of friends* is interwoven throughout our curriculum and our year. It reminds us and our children that we're part of a larger community. We believe that when we're sharing with others, we are caring for others. The Early Childhood Program at Kol Ami is dedicated to providing a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum while teaching and modeling Jewish values. Our focus is centered on encouraging pride in oneself as an individual and as an important member of the Jewish community.

Children learn best through play and experimentation. We offer these learning experiences within a warm, accepting, and nurturing environment. Our classrooms are set up in colorful inviting centers where children choose their area of interest including art, manipulative toys, puzzles, dramatic play, blocks, transportation, animals, musical instruments, and books. We recognize and respect each child's unique qualities and strive to foster their growth and development in all aspects: cognitive, physical, social, and emotional. Through rich and welcoming surroundings, complemented with consistent routines and exploratory play opportunities, we inspire children to grow at their own pace, realizing their full potential.

FIRST FRIENDS *(14-22 months)*

For Toddlers and Their Parent or Caregiver

Presented in two 10 week semesters, children, parents/caregivers and teachers all play together. Beginning with a welcome circle the morning activities include water, oatmeal, and sensory tables, play, fine and gross motor experiences, painting, Play Doh, puzzles, music, and simple art activities focused on a season or Jewish holiday. After snack together, the morning concludes with story telling, music, and movement. Besides the teaching staff, a social worker visits each month to stay and play so that any shared concerns or any questions parents may have can be discussed.

This program meets on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:15am, October through January and then again from January through May.

2's Program

Warm and Nurturing

Our programs for 2's is a supportive environment for that critical first school year. We help children and their parents become comfortable with separation while creating a stepping-stone towards a positive school experience. Our school year begins with a home visit from your child's teachers. This brief introduction in the security of your child's own home helps cultivate a sense of connection that will in turn facilitate a successful classroom separation. Important goals in the two's include independence, socialization, expressive and receptive communication, and fine/gross motor skill development. All opportunities offer a variety of sensory integration experiences and creative activities. Through our developmentally appropriate exploration of Shabbat and the Jewish holidays, we plant the seeds of Jewish customs, traditions and values, rounding out our curriculum and year.

Our 2's school day runs from 9:00-11:45am, September through June.

2-Day 2's: Wednesday, and Thursday
3-Day 2's: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
4-Day 2's: Tuesday-Friday
5-Day 2's: Monday-Friday

3's Program

An Environment for Learning and Play

Whether you choose our 3,4, or 5 day option, our 3's are grouped together in a style that enables our families to add days as the year progresses. Our 3's classes provide mulitple opportunities for learning and growth in the areas of cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. Consistent daily routines and weekly "special" programs help the children develop a sense of safety, while creating the path to learning. Jewish holidays and traditions are celebrated and woven throughout the curriculum that stresses social, emotional, and cognitive growth. As the year progresses, we teach the children about the world around them, introducing environmental awareness, cultural diversity, and culminating with a Tzedakah project. Our ***Torah Alive!*** program offers our 3's a first introduction to the Torah and our glorious history through story, puppetry, and dramatic play. We conclude the school year with our "All About Me" unit. This unit encourages social skills and self awareness, and touches on family, friends, personal preferences, feelings, manners, health, and nutrition. Incorporated into each day is a gross motor experience in one of our state of the art outdoor spaces, or in our extensive and well-equipped indoor play area. Shabbat is a special event, with our families rotating as our Shabbat guests, and classes taking turns as school-wide challah bakers. We celebrate Shabbat as a whole community in prayer and song in the sanctuary, led by our rabbis and cantor. The celebration continues in the classroom, where we share the closing of a stimulating and satisfying week filled with knowledge and friendship.

Our 3's school day runs from 9:00-12:00pm September through June.

3-Day 3's: Wednesdays until 1:00pm, Thursday and Friday from 9:00-12:00pm
4-Day 3's: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00-12:00pm, Wednesdays until 1:00pm
5-Day 3's: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday until 12:00pm, Wednesday until 1:00pm

4's Morning & Full Day Programs

Providing Enriching Curriculum

All of our 4's are grouped together in our morning classrooms where everything and anything is possible! Our primary goal is to provide multiple opportunities for growth in all developmental areas: language arts, math, science, gross and fine motor, and music. Additionally, Jewish values are incorporated into the daily curriculum as the children are taught about traditions, holidays, Tzedakah, Mitzvot, Tikkun Olam, and our ***Torah Alive!*** program. In addition, we have visiting *Music* and *Gym* professionals, *Pre-K Handwriting Without Tears Program*, weekly visits to our *ECP Lending Library*, and *Israeli Dance and Movement Program*, hands on learning in our *ECP Garden*, our *Outdoor Classroom*, a *Teva (Nature) Program*, *Field Trips*, and so much more! There are also many options for 4's children to stay for more throughout the day.

After a morning of developmental play, children in our 4's program can stay to enjoy a unique opportunity to "travel" around the globe three afternoons per week! In our program, ***We All Sing With The Same Voice,*** the children explore in depth the culture, art, music, food, nature, and geography of multiple countries. This ***Around the World Program*** meets Monday-Wednesday from 12:00-2:30, September through June.

Morning 4's meet Monday-Friday mornings from 9:00-12:00pm with a lunch option on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until 1:00pm, September through June.

Full Day 4's meet Monday-Wednesday 9:00-2:30pm, and Thursday and Friday until 12:00pm.

A Step Ahead! Pre-K's

Kindergarten Readiness Program

Designed especially for children turning 5 in the Fall. *A Step Ahead!* is expertly designed to bridge the gap for some students to have another year before Kindergarten. Our Pre-K program includes active exploration and teacher-initiated activities including literacy, handwriting, math, science, art, games, songs, and morning meeting. It provides both large and small group opportunities tailored to meet the collective needs of both the individual learner and the community. The children in this program will benefit from Kindergarten style enrichment activities plus *Garden, Library, Music, Israeli Dance, Drama, Yoga, Teva (Nature), and Soccer.*

A Step Ahead! meets Monday-Thursday from 9:00-2:30pm and Fridays from 9:00-12:00pm, September through June.

2's Lunch Bunch

Me and My Grownup

Instead of having to transition to a new place after school for lunch or activities come and stay with your little one for lunch. Opportunities include: Music, Yoga, and Young at Art.

Classes meet from 12:00-2:00pm in two 15-week semesters Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, October thru June.

3's and 4's Lunch Bunch

Lunch with Friends

On our lunch bunch afternoons, our 3's and 4's stay and enjoy eating lunch with their friends and engaging in a wide range of interesting activities. Enrichment opportunities include: *Art, Hip Hop, Karate, Soccer, Leap into Literacy, Spanish*, and *Stay and Play.*

Classes meet from 12:00-2:00pm in two 15-week semesters Monday-Thursday, September through June.

4's/Pre-K's Stay 'Til 4:00!

Enrichment Opportunities

4's and Pre-K's can enjoy even more of their day at Kol Ami. Enrichment opportunities include *Marvelous Math, Mad Science, Magic with The Great Charlini, Lego Building, Spanish Emmersion,* and *The Road to Broadway.*

Stay Until 4 for More meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 in two 15 week semesters from September through June.