

ALEPH PRESCHOOL



Beth El
SYNAGOGUE

March 13, 2020
17 Adar 5780

Dear Aleph Preschool Families,

Judaism teaches that *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life) is a fundamental principle valued above all other commandments. As we continue to closely monitor the rapidly changing situation and spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to share what this means for our Aleph Preschool and Beth El Synagogue family. Out of an abundance of caution, and our moral obligation to participate in proven harm-reduction methods (specifically social distancing), Aleph Preschool will be closed beginning Monday March 16th, 2020 and will reopen after Pesach break on Monday April 20th, 2020.

We will continue to monitor situations closely and share additional information should this timeline change. It is our goal to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

The following are important details for our families to be aware of:

- We are currently not aware of any diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our Beth El community.
- Coming home with your child(ren) today are:
 - Snow gear
 - Nap loveys and blankets
 - Diapers (as applicable)

In line with the Jewish value of *kol yisrael arevim zel la-zeh* (all Jews are responsible for one another), our intention is for teachers to gather next week to create a portfolio of videos and resources to help you and your children while Aleph Preschool is closed. Details and links will be sent then. Our staff is also committed to being available via email during the entire school closure. With great appreciation, we can share that Beth El Synagogue will also maintain the salaries of the entire Aleph Preschool staff for the duration of the closing. Moreover, April tuition will be adjusted based on our date of return to school. Families wishing to join us in this spirit of community and continuity can choose to turn their April tuition into a tax-deductible donation. Please let me know if this is your preference.

Below is a link with some recommendations on how to discuss the coronavirus with your children.

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

To get you started, here is a list of online educational websites that are geared to a variety of ages.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NUKLZN7hGSu1Hzm70kfzBKs-lsSELaEMggS60Bi2O2l/htmlview?usp=embed_facebook&fbclid=IwAR22daq9Q4eqdrPrfR7LMnmLIhgzg68wEP6jn6LaXxnAU36kzRZZOTiNyi9A&sle=true&pru=AAABcPgj4cE*QCY40EGPERdlHhcjMlfbog

I am available, as always, by email or phone at kburton@bethelsynagogue.org or 952-297-7433.

As we prepare to welcome Shabbat, we wish to bestow upon each of our families this blessing:

May God bless and protect you.

May all the love in your heart be returned to you.

May God watch over you night and day.

May God bless your body with health and your soul with joy.

May all your prayers be answered.

Shabbat Shalom,
Karen