



NACHAS + NEWS

from

Our Classrooms & Beyond

March 5, 2010
י"ט אדר תש"ע



Dear Parents:

Perhaps your child has mentioned the Animal Lady who has stirred up some excitement lately. Let me introduce myself. My name is Malka Cohn and I have been doing animal education programs in New York for several years. Last spring I led the children on a weekly adventure into the lives of animals. Each week was a new animal and a new experience.



The spring program became the forerunner of our current program. Research proves that children benefit on many levels by having daily interaction with animals. After considering a gamut of animals that could be brought into the Yeshiva, we decided that rabbits were a good place to start. Hence, Snowflake and Caramel have been welcomed as the newest members of Yeshiva Eitz Chaim. While many children and teachers are drawn to these fluffy new friends, others still choose to keep a distance. Overall, the presence of the rabbits in the Yeshiva is having a clearly positive impact. Students can be seen walking the halls with a bunny cradled in their arms or sitting with a friend gently caressing a rabbit in their lap. Even the wary onlookers seem satisfied with the new additions. The students are responsible for cleaning the cages every day as well as supplying food and water. Our fantastic teachers assist and supervise these activities.



We are excited about the chick that hatched after mid-winter vacation. The children have enjoyed watching how big it has grown in the last month! Your kids will surely keep you posted. If you have any questions or contribution to this program, please feel free to contact me.



Hoppily Yours,
Malka Cohn





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Making Learning Stick



As you walk into Yeshiva Eitz Chaim, your eyes will immediately be drawn to the beautiful painting on the left wall. The wall was painted with an undercoat of magnetic paint and has a mural depicting a house and a farm over it. Each

room is vividly displayed in full color 3-D images. Our staff created objects to place on the wall by laminating pictures and putting magnetic strips on the back of each one. This magnetic pieces are used to help our students develop crucial language skills.



Using the "WH" questions, our teachers guide the children in placing the objects in their correct location, while narrating what is happening.

For example, the teacher might ask "Where can we find food in our house?" and the child will take a magnetic fruit and put it in the refrigerator or on the counter. This guidance through physical activity helps our students attach meaning to objects, verbs and prepositions. In addition, the children learn how to ask, answer and think about the WH questions. This in turn helps them learn about and interact effectively with their world.

