

# RENANIM MANHATTAN

Preschool and Summer Camp

336 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212-750-2266

Rachel Surizon, Director

*A Unique Year-Round Program  
for Children 3 months to 6 years*

Small Classes by Age Group

Baby Care 3 months to 24 months

Open 8:30 AM until 6:00 PM

Half Day Programs  
Full Day Programs  
Extended Day Programs

Your child will discover a world of learning  
and adventure

Licensed by the New York City Department of Health

**RENANIM MANHATTAN** is our name. In Hebrew “Renanim” means happiness. We offer an excellent preschool education in an atmosphere of happiness and joy for children 18 months to 6 years old. We started in Israel and now operate in Manhattan and in Riverdale. With over 37 years of experience, we have a lot to offer your child. **RENANIM** provides a caring, nurturing and stimulating environment where your child will learn through developmentally appropriate activities. We strive to build confidence and self-esteem, fostering active learning through exploration and inquiry.

Our classes are organized according to age. While the programs for the younger children differ from those for the older children, the curriculum for all of the children is designed to encourage them to participate in creative activities, and activities that promote language and speech.

Our primary focus with our youngest children is to enable them to deal with their separation and foster their socialization and initiation into nursery school. As the children become more mature, we continue to assist them in developing their social skills and begin to assist them in acquiring language and speech skills in conjunction with early literacy. We prepare the children in our oldest class to enter and succeed in the kindergarten of their choice. Most of our children take the ERB’s, the screening test for entry into private schools. Our curriculum provides them with the necessary skills to do well on this test.

### **The Goals of Our Program**

- Building confidence, self esteem, and respect for oneself and others
- Encouraging curiosity and fostering independence
- Developing a positive attitude towards school
- Promoting aesthetic expression through art and music
- Developing cognitive and academic skills to facilitate the transition to kindergarten
- Promoting communication skills
- Instilling Jewish culture and values

## **Underlying Educational Philosophy**

Our study program and approach to education are based on the research and theories of Jean Piaget. Piaget believed that an appropriate environment enhances a child's inherent motivation to investigate, understand, learn, and overcome the cognitive and physical hurdles that he or she encounters. This self-study equips the child with adequate tools to cope with the surroundings of his daily life. With teachers acting as facilitators, the child will naturally pass from one intellectual/conceptual stage to another at his own pace when he or she becomes "ripe" and "ready".

Every developmental stage rests on the firm foundation of its predecessor. Thus, our profound responsibility is to invest our best efforts and abilities in laying a sound foundation for our children, providing them with the opportunity to develop at their own pace. Our program sees and treats every child as a unique individual who yearns for help, support, and guidance to achieve his or her maximum ability.

## **The Program and the Staff**

**RENANIM MANHATTAN** provides an exciting, fun-filled, multi-cultural experience for each child. The school is staffed by American and Israeli teachers, all of whom are certified and experienced in early childhood education. Research has shown that the best time to learn a foreign language is from birth to 5 years. While English is our primary language of instruction, we offer instruction in Hebrew as well. This facilitates learning for those children whose first language is Hebrew, and encourages them to maintain and develop their first language.

Our program is eclectic. **RENANIM** teachers know that children learn mainly through play. Classrooms stocked with toys, blocks and dolls offer the children the opportunity to engage in dramatic and imaginary play. Interactive and educational games stimulate their intellectual development. Through these activities, they learn to play and work cooperatively.

Promoting aesthetic expression is one of our most important goals. We provide many opportunities for the children to express themselves through movement, music, and art. Nothing is more exciting to a child or parent than for a child to bring home a painting, sculpture, or art project he or she has created in school. Regular music, dance,

yoga, and exercise instruction provides the children with opportunities to express themselves in other ways in addition to language.

At the same time, **RENANIM** stresses academics and readiness skills. We are acutely aware of the challenges that children face in elementary school. Through group work, individual instruction, and whole-class instruction, our children develop early literacy skills including letter recognition, sound recognition, writing, speaking, and arithmetic. We teach the alphabet and numbers systematically using a variety of approaches to accommodate each child's individual style of learning.

With our oldest group of children, we work hard to develop study and work habits that will prepare them for elementary school. Working with small groups, the teachers help the children develop early literacy and mathematics skills. Each child has a portfolio of completed work as well as "work-in-progress". Under the guidance of a teacher, each child happily works at his own speed to complete the material in his or her portfolio. We give the children their own notebooks and we encourage them to bring these home to practice letter and sound recognition and writing. The teachers monitor the work that is done at home. We also encourage the children to borrow books from our extensive library to read at home and discuss in the class.

Finally, our program integrates Jewish cultural and religious values with contemporary American life. Parties and celebrations are an important part of the curriculum. With each Jewish holiday comes a myriad of activities to enable the children to understand its significance and meaning. The stories and symbols of the Jewish holidays also provide us with resources for developing literacy and creativity. Each Friday we celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat. Equal emphasis is placed on American holidays. When children leave **RENANIM**, they are fully aware of the multi-cultural society in which they live.

Since we are located in the heart of Manhattan, we utilize the rich cultural resources of the city. With Central Park, museums, libraries, and theater nearby, we plan many activities outside school.

## Facilities

Our school is located at 336 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, between First and Second Avenues. We occupy two floors of the building. We are conveniently situated near buses and subways, as well as the Roosevelt Island tram. Children from a variety of neighborhoods attend our school. A security guard is posted at the front door from 8:00 AM until the last child leaves the building at 6:00 PM.

Adjacent to the building is a private, locked playground. It is fully equipped with climbing apparatus, bicycles, and a motorized carousel. During the summer we set up a pool, sandbox, and water-play area for the children to enjoy.

Each of our three spacious, bright classrooms has its own bathroom, including a toilet and an area to change diapers. In each classroom, there is a kitchen area with a refrigerator and a microwave oven for storing and heating lunches.

The classrooms are divided into centers where the children can play and express themselves. Children are encouraged to choose for themselves the centers where they will play. The opportunity to select an activity fosters independence and self-confidence.

Library Center: Children can look at books on their own, select books for the teacher to read to the class, and borrow books to take home

Job Center: Children are given jobs to do within the classroom that benefit the group as a whole

Block Area: Using different types of building materials (wooden blocks, Legos, etc) children build and use their imagination to create structures. They begin to conceptualize quantity, measurement, size and shape.

Computer Center: Children have an opportunity to use various age-appropriate computer programs.

Science Center: Throughout the year the children are given an opportunity to observe and experiment. An aquarium, a terrarium, as well as individual plants are set up in the classroom at various times of the year. Magnifying glasses and magnets are available for the children to use as they explore the world around them.

Doll Corner: Dolls, stuffed animals, puppets and miniatures give the children an opportunity to engage in dramatic play.

Art Center: Access to various media give the children an opportunity to express themselves aesthetically and to develop fine motor skills. Available to them are paints, markers, and chalk as well as pencils and pens.

Dress up Center: A valise filled with costumes, shoes and jewelry give the children an opportunity to act out stories and use their imaginations.

## **Parental Involvement**

**RENANIM** believes that the successful development of a child physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually involves collaboration and cooperation among the child's school, teachers, and parents. To this end, we encourage active participation from our parents. To keep parents apprised of what is going on, we distribute monthly calendars listing the curriculum plans and special events. Teachers write weekly letters to inform parents of what was accomplished during the past week and what will be happening during the coming week.

There are three formal parent-teacher conferences each year. The first is an orientation which provides parents with all of the preliminary information about the school year and an opportunity to meet the teachers and the parents of the other children in the class. The second and third conferences are individual meetings with each parent and are designed to inform parents of their child's progress.

Each year we have Chanukah and Purim Family Arts & Crafts parties. These events provide an opportunity for parents and children to come together and create projects for these festive holidays. They also give the school community an opportunity to celebrate these holidays together.

Teachers are available for phone calls from parents during their lunch hour. Additional parent-teacher consultations may also be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

## **Lunches and Snacks**

Every morning we provide the children with a nutritious kosher breakfast. Children bring their own lunches to school. Each classroom has a refrigerator and

microwave oven where we can refrigerate and reheat the lunches. The children also bring an afternoon snack for after rest time.

## **Summer Program**

We offer two 4-week summer programs in July and August. Staffed by teachers from our regular programs, the summer program combines the fun of a summer camp with the learning experience of our innovative preschool program.

In our centrally air-conditioned classrooms the children enjoy arts & crafts, music and body movement, making puppets, cooking and baking, and creative drama. Each week a different theme is introduced and the activities planned for the week are based on that theme. Trips out of the camp are planned to enrich the themes. For those parents and children who request it, we offer additional individualized coaching in academic skills, including computers.

We offer much opportunity for sports and water play. Our backyard becomes a beach in the heart of Manhattan with a sandbox, wading pool, water slide and sprinklers. We often take advantage of the neighborhood parks for our older children.

## **Additional Services**

During the weeks when the school is closed for winter and spring breaks, the last week of June and the last week of August, we offer mini-camps at an additional cost, for families who need child-care. Special activities are planned for the children who attend these sessions.