

# GAN ANANIM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Logistics and Practical Matters*

#### **What ages do you serve?**

Ages 2-5. This online program is meant to be personalized. Our classroom will be mixed age, but with attention to 1:1 and small group interaction, your child's experience will be tailored to meet their needs.

#### **What are the hours for Gan Ananim?**

Daily posts with Zoom links and activities are posted at 8:00 AM daily. There will be at least 3 opportunities for virtual interaction a day, sometimes more, with programming complete by 4:00 PM. No individual session exceeds 45 minutes.

#### **What technology do I need?**

Your child will need the Seesaw Class App, available for free. This app works on Apple, Android, and Kindle, as well as on tablets, laptops, and desktops. We recommend using a phone or device that the child will not be using for the Class App for the Family App.

#### **What is tuition?**

\$1,000/month

#### **What is the Gan Ananim Calendar?**

You will follow the same calendar as our In-Person Preschool.

#### **What supplies should I have on hand?**

A weekly supply list for the following week will go out in advance with enough time to gather project-specific supplies. Here is a list of basics that will help your child get off to a great start:

- A quiet, consistent place to sit and stand for Zoom meetings
- Set of 12 washable markers
- Basic watercolor palette and brush
- 1 package construction paper
- 1 drawing pad
- 2 colors of regular size playdough
- Legos/ duplos, or some sort of basic block set
- Small dry erase board and marker/eraser

Most of these items you will already have in your home! We will be using recycling and other basic, easy-to-find supplies. Other recommendations to add to your play space can be discussed with your teacher.

## *Curriculum and Judaic Content*

### **What does “child-centered learning” actually look like online?**

Our goal is to meet your child and family where they are at. Just as in our in-person school, we focus on the developmental needs and individual interests of your child. The ability to meet in small groups and 1:1 will allow your child to follow their natural curiosity while still expanding their understanding of the world through hands on investigation.

### **How Jewish is the curriculum?**

Shabbat will be celebrated with the live stream of Shabbat Sing at 9:30 am on Fridays. Jewish values underly all of our learning, but Friday’s activity blocks are devoted to either Judaic content (holidays, values, symbols) or an art lesson.

### **How do you celebrate Shabbat in school? Does the school close early on Fridays?**

Gan Ananim will be joining the EDCJCC in-person preschool for Shabbat with Mr. Ari, livestreamed at 9:30 AM on Fridays. There is no morning meeting that day, but the regular schedule will proceed, ending with Closing Circle at 3:30 PM.

## *About our Day*

### **What’s the purpose of the daily morning meeting?**

The morning meeting is the time we will be focusing on meeting social/emotional needs of the students, even though we weave social/emotional learning into every activity. We begin by a movement and music activity, followed by a share, and then a game focusing on social skills and emotional development.

### **What kind of activities will my child be doing?**

In the daily activity blocks, we will spend 30-45 minutes doing a hands-on learning experience parallel with their teacher and class. These may include basic chemical reactions, making a craft, puppet shows, painting, cooking, and more. Some activity blocks may focus on a book, or sometimes we will analyze a video or have a special guest.

### **What is Seesaw?**

Seesaw is an app that allows teacher to interact with your child in real time. We can assign activities that will enhance the child’s learning beyond the Zoom session or post links to other fabulous resources such as games and videos. By adding

responses to prompts from teachers, children practice digital media literacy and create a portfolio to show their progress families can see.

## ***Admissions and Starting School***

### **When can my child start?**

Gan Ananim start up week is September 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Class starts on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **What is Start Up Week?**

After you enroll, our Virtual Preschool Coordinator will make contact with you to set up a meeting to assist in getting your technology in order, setting up a learning space for your child, and answer all your questions. We will also do an ASQ, or Ages and Stages Questionnaire, together to get a developmental picture of your child and begin to get to know them. During a virtual home visit, your child will also get to know their teacher ahead of time and start relationship building.

### **Is there an orientation before school starts?**

Our set up week from September 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> is focused on getting your family acclimated and learning about each other. Our goal is to set everyone up for success.

## ***FAMILY INVOLVEMENT***

### **How do you communicate with families?**

Individual messages to families will be sent through the Seesaw inbox feature to the Family App. There will also be a traditional email for your teacher.

## ***SAFETY AND SECURITY***

### **What has been done to ensure safe usage of the online program?**

Our Seesaw platform is set up so that the only information about your child is shared with you, and your family members who use the Seesaw Family App. Class-wide documentation will be visible on the blog, which is accessible by an individual address.

Children cannot see each other's work unless it is posted to the public blog. No private information will be posted to the blog, only sample student work with permission.

Part of our "Norms and Expectations" is that a child is never alone with an adult online. This is for your child's and the teacher's safety. Learning to be safe on the internet is a unique advantage of online school!

*For more information about any of these topics, or any other questions about our Preschool, please contact our Director of Admissions, Miriam Szubin, at [mszubin@edcicc.org](mailto:mszubin@edcicc.org) or 202-777-3263.*