

2007/2008 PARENT HANDBOOK

WHAT IS ZAREINU?

Zareinu is a Jewish Day School and treatment centre that provides special education and therapies to a population of children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges.

- Zareinu provides on-site therapy and education.
- Each individually designed student program meets the unique needs of children between the ages of birth and 21 years of age.
- Zareinu is a model-teaching centre for university programs and community colleges to train therapists and special education students.
- Zareinu offers the most up-to-date therapeutic techniques as well as creating new and innovative strategies.
- All therapies, special education and interventions are housed in one unique setting.
- Zareinu provides a setting rich in Jewish tradition and teachings.

We strive to battle prejudice and encourage inclusion through opportunities for supported integration whenever possible.

We look towards increasing acceptance of children with special needs in the community.

PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is based on the belief that each "special child" is a valuable member of our community and has the right to an adapted education, opportunities for improving life skills, communication and our respect for their strengths, as well as, a focus on their needs. The family must be an integral part of our efforts; their input treated with respect and their participation in planning individual programs for their child is encouraged. We believe that every child has potential and deserves our united efforts in providing therapies and learning strategies that will improve the quality of life for each child and family at Zareinu.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Infant Intervention Program

- Infant Intervention Program – This program provides parents and their babies with a program that includes assessment, activities and therapies directed by an infant interventionist, speech and language pathologist and occupational, physical and music therapists. Ages: Birth to 2 years old. 2 mornings per week.

Diagnostic Preschool Program

- Nursery Program – This stimulating class is a therapy-based, early childhood educational setting with a 2:1 student to teacher ratio. It provides intensive individual programming as well as a Jewish pre-school curriculum. The staff includes specialized early childhood educators, life skill teachers, teaching assistants and the full team of Zareinu therapists. Ages: 2-5 years old. Full or part time attendance.

Zareinu's Special Education Classes

- Zareinu's Special Education Classes – Intensive programs provide a small staff/student ratio, special education teachers and therapists to enhance life skills and learning opportunities. Speech and language pathologists offer support and/or alternative methods of augmentative communication, signing, picture symbols. Occupational therapists enable students to access the curriculum beyond traditional pencil and paper activities. Students who are partially integrated into public or private schools receive support from teachers and therapists in their inclusive setting. These classrooms are explained in more detail below:

Multiple Exceptionality (grades 1-8) - This program emphasizes communication and activities of daily living to promote independence and quality of life for students with severe to profound developmental disabilities. The adapted curriculum is paired with a full range of individual, small group activities and therapeutic interventions.

Mild/Moderate Intellectual Disability-Primary (grades K-2) and Junior (grades 3-6), and Intermediate (grades 7-9) - These classes operate as traditional Hebrew Day Schools offering ½ day adapted Hebrew and English curricula and are staffed by special education teachers and therapists who use a variety of reading and math remedial programs to meet individual needs. Partial integration into a day school is often part of the programming.

ABA Program (grades 1-8) - This unique program is consulted to by Autism Partnership and based on the ABA model classrooms in the US. Zareinu adds their unique features of integrating speech, occupational and music therapies.

Secondary School Programs (ages 14-21) - Students have the opportunity to earn credits toward the Ontario Secondary School Certificate in a small, segregated, Jewish-rich environment that offers both Hebrew and English studies. The girls program is located at Beth Jacob High School and the boys program is located at Adath Israel Synagogue.

HEBREW DEPARTMENT

Students will have the opportunity to learn and be immersed in Jewish values and culture including Davening and Siddur skills, Hebrew reading, Hebrew language (reading and translating), Chumash, Dinim, Pirkei Avot, Hebrew script reading and writing, Midos Tovos and Parsha. They are exposed to Hebrew life experiences through community and shul visits, heritage traditions and holidays. The students receive in-class instruction and remedial services.

Social Work Department

Our Social Workers provide guidance and support to families regarding Ministry funding, transitions and support dealing with difficult family issues that relate to the daily challenges of providing for their child(ren) with special needs.

CHILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

The Child Life Department provides teachers, families at home, camps, and after school community programs with the strategies to include Zareinu students in the activities of daily living. Behaviour management, Theraplay, life skills training for one to one workers are some examples of services offered.

INTEGRATION SUPPORT TEAM

This team of specialists provides the child's integrated setting with ongoing consultation from teachers and therapists to ensure successful inclusion.

CURRICULUM

The preschool program is developed through thematic units and concepts that reinforce social, intellectual, physical, and emotional growth. Children are exposed to new learning situations through modified, "hands on" activities. The adapted learning environment provides children with an opportunity to understand basic and abstract concepts, experiment, create, construct, explore, plan, set goals, and solve problems. Students develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in language rich environments. They use mathematics in everyday tasks to practice problem solving and reinforce the concepts of number sense, numeracy, spatial sense, and geometry. Science is investigated in the classroom through exploration, prediction, questioning, classifying and gathering information. Children are encouraged to use their growing awareness of others while relating to their peers by participating in social and co-operative activities.

The school-aged program utilizes direct instruction and thematic units. The General Studies curriculum follows the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines as described below:

Language Arts

Expectations:

Students are expected to develop effective oral and visual communication with others and their environment. They are taught phonetic based systems of reading and writing, and learn to integrate these skills in meaningful and purposeful contexts. They further develop these skills through the writing process to develop the ability to organize ideas, reason, and apply language conventions.

Mathematics

Expectations:

Students are expected to develop skills in order to problem solve, understand concepts, and apply mathematical procedures. They will be exposed to, and learn appropriate to their development, number sense and numeration, measurement, geometry, patterning, and data collection. They will develop these skills in meaningful and purposeful contexts.

Social Studies

Expectations:

It is expected that students will be exposed to a variety of strands to develop their skills of research and inquiry, according to their development levels. Students learn about Canada and World Connection, and Heritage and Citizenship subject areas in meaningful and purposeful contexts, and will utilize language arts skills to demonstrate their knowledge.

Methodology and Instructional Strategies:

Individual, small group, and whole group lessons, therapeutic treatments, reading groups, drama, computer, computers, differentiated learning, teacher modeling, printing lessons, graded readers, theme based units, pictures, AAC software, cues/prompts, communication games.

Evaluation Procedures:

Observation, standardized tests, anecdotal reports, routine tracking, team meetings, student generated work, systematic programmes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (2 per year)

Special Education Staff, Program Assistants and therapists keep up to date by attending conferences, as well as being invited to provide workshops and lectures for the many children's agencies with whom we are affiliated.

ZAREINU AS A MODEL TEACHING CENTRE AND CLINIC

Zareinu is used as a practicum placement for students from: The Faculties of Education, Social Work, and Medicine; and Programmes in Early Childhood Education, Developmental Service Work, and Co-operative Education. In addition, we are a teaching clinic for students in Physical, Occupational, Speech and Language Pathology, and Music therapies.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Staff, are also offered training in CPR, First Aid and C.P.I.

VOLUNTEERS

The many wonderful volunteers at Zareinu are orientated with a 4 part workshop series delivered by Zareinu's therapists and teachers. Our volunteer coordinator sources, interviews and monitors this valuable group of caring volunteers.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival – School Programs begin promptly at 9 a.m. Please notify school if your child will be late, particularly if they are sent by bus, taxi, carpool, etc. Your child's safe arrival is a priority.

Dismissal – School ends at 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, through the year:

Friday Dismissal times:

Until Daylight Savings – dismissal is 3:00 p.m.

After Daylight Savings – dismissal is 2:00 p.m.

After Standard Time, dismissal is 3:00 p.m.

Your child's safety is important to us. Please notify us if anyone new will be picking up your child.

Please note: Preschool Program – Arrival and dismissal times are flexible.

Absence – Please call the office to let us know that your child will be away.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Emergency Information – Make sure you notify the school immediately whenever there is a change in the contact persons for emergencies. Please make sure that our Health records include updated information.

Immunization – Schools are mandated by the Public Health Department to require immunization of students. Health Inspectors come to the schools to check on this. They have the legal right to exclude from school any student who has not complied with regulations. Please ensure that all forms sent home in this regard are returned promptly.

Medications – Whenever possible, parents should request that their physician schedule medication to be taken before the student leaves for school or when the student arrives home. When this is not possible, the school will cooperate in dispensing medication. Prescription medication must arrive in the original bottle. If meds are Tylenol, cough medicine, etc., please supply your child with the medication and instructions and a signed medication form (available at the office). Pre school parents must include a note from their doctor prescribing non prescription medication.

First Aid - The office takes care of minor injuries, superficial cuts, etc. If indications are that the injury is more severe, parents will be notified. If, in the judgment of the school, the matter requires medical attention, we will insist that a parent arrange to pick up the child immediately. In deciding on the

appropriate line of action in each particular case, school staff exercises judgment with utmost care. Wherever possible, we must consider the well being of all the children in the classroom and children who present as being unwell will be sent home.

If special medical conditions apply to your child, please notify the office of the details of the condition and emergency procedures to be followed. If your child has any condition potentially requiring the use of an **EpiPen**, please ensure that the expiry date is carefully monitored.

There are times when your child **must** be taken home or kept home. We offer the following as guidelines:

If your child has any of the following symptoms: fever, sore throat, earaches, stomach pains, nausea, unusual rashes – check carefully with your pediatrician to evaluate the condition. Sending children to school with these symptoms or even with just a “bad common cold” can impede the child’s own recovery and can also spread the sickness to others. If we notice these or any other symptoms of illness, contagious or otherwise, we endeavor to notify you. If, in our judgment, there is any likelihood of your child infecting other children, we will ask you to collect your child from school. If a child continually exhibits serious symptoms, we may request a doctor’s note or contact to better understand your child’s needs. Children who are vomiting or who have diarrhea must be kept home for **24 hrs.** until clear of all symptoms according to Ministry requirements.

Please notify the office immediately if your child contracts any communicable disease. Chicken pox and measles are the most common. We follow the Public Health regulations as to how many days must elapse before a student is allowed to return to school after a communicable illness. We ask for your cooperation in preventing the spread of illness to your child and others as well as to staff members.

Parents are requested to follow Zareinu’s Behaviour Management Policies while on school property. Any parents needing assistance may request this, as needed.

Dangerous Allergies - We have discovered that some students entering our building are highly allergic to peanut and nut products. These children can have a fatal reaction to the smallest trace of a substance such as peanut butter. In order to provide a safe environment for the students of Zareinu, we have instituted a **NO PEANUT/NUT POLICY**.

Please note that this does not apply to your children’s home eating habits. In order to implement this policy, we ask you not to send children to school with ANY foods containing peanuts or nuts. We regret the inconvenience that this policy may cause for some parents and students. However, we hope that you understand the dangers that this type of allergy can pose. As it is difficult to monitor all food being brought into the building, we are counting on your cooperation in this matter.

Substitutes: We suggest the following as nutritional and menu substitutes: salad, eggs, salmon and tuna salad, macaroni and cheese.

Please inform the principal – in written form – about any other allergies your child has or emergency medications (EpiPen, puffers, ventilators) to remain at school.

NO SMOKING POLICY

According to the Smoke Free Ontario Act, no person is permitted to smoke in the school building or parts of the school building. A second infraction will be reported to York Region Public Health Staff. Violation of this policy could result in a \$5,000.00 fine.

FIRE AND EVACUATION PLAN

The Fire Department has approved our Fire Plans in the event of an emergency. Our evacuation designation for an emergency (i.e. bomb threat) would be the Bernard Betel Centre at 1003 Steeles Avenue. Fire drills are held according to the York Region Fire Department’s expectations.

DRESS CODE AND KASHRUTH

In keeping with the Orthodox traditions of Zareinu, we ask that staff and parents follow the dress code of the Kehila Centre, which houses an Orthodox synagogue, a Hebrew Day School as well as our Centre. Ladies, please wear dresses or skirts. Men, please wear a kippa/head covering.

Kosher Foods – Please send in kosher food for your child’s lunch and snacks. Dairy is requested.

SCHOOL CLOSING

School closing is a rare occurrence, however, when this does happen, schools affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education follow the decision of a specific committee. Radio stations make the announcement. They will be posted in the fall.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

Parents should always feel free to call the office to arrange a phone call or meeting with any of Zareinu’s team, if they have questions or concerns. Your child’s therapists will contact the parents through each term to touch base with you.

Progress Reporting will be available through parent/team meetings. After we have created an individual educational (IEP) and an individual service plan (ISP) for therapies, we will invite you to share ideas and review these plans midterm, in the late fall and once again in the early spring. These sessions will be followed by written reports. Although these are the officially designated times, we are happy to share ideas and address concerns as they arise.

ADMISSIONS & TUITION POLICY

In order to ensure a place for your child, the following steps need to be followed:

1. Payment of the registration fee before June 1st of the current school year.
2. Post dated cheques, payable on the 1st or the 15th of the month for the full amount of the tuition are to be delivered to the school prior to your child’s placement.
3. No child may begin the program if there is an outstanding tuition balance from a prior year.
4. If a child leaves the program during the middle of the year, tuition cannot be refunded as a result of the commitments made to staff. Tuition may only be refunded in extraordinary circumstances.
5. Zareinu is a partner with the Board of Jewish Education. If you are unable to pay the full tuition and require a subsidy, you must submit a completed subsidy application form. If you have children in other day schools, those schools will be contacted in order to arrive at your total family tuition obligation. You will then be advised regarding your tuition fee.
6. Any questions regarding financial arrangements should be directed to Randy Spiegel, Executive Director, and will be addressed by the Admissions and Tuition Committee.

Parents must agree to Zareinu’s Admission & Tuition Policy and confirm by checking the appropriate box on the Student Application.

DISMISSAL POLICY

Zareinu reserves the right to dismiss a child and their family should they come to an impasse regarding services. If the family requires, Zareinu will help the parents find a more suitable setting for their child. At the parent’s request, Zareinu staff will agree to remain in contact with the family and the new setting to facilitate a child’s well-being during transition.