

INSIDE YvY

Parent Newsletter

From First Steps to Big Strides at YvY Head Start – Look How We've Grown!



IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Safety & Calm Down Yoga



- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Home-Based Early Head Start
- Expectant Moms' Program
- Special Education
- Early Intervention
- Health Home
- Title I
- Student Support Services
- CFTSS
- ABA Insurance
- WIC Program
- NY State of Health Marketplace
- Research Institute
- Project Reach
- Fitness Center



Hilda Valentin, Education Director, shares the success story of a former student. This young man, Andrew, pictured in the photograph, was one of our students when he was just 3 years old. He graduated college and is now an engineer! His sister was also in our Head Start program and is currently studying law. Their success speaks to the transformative power of early childhood education.

A Message from Your New CEO

Dear Yeled v'Yalda staff, providers and families,

I step into the role of Chief Executive Officer of Yeled v'Yalda with deep gratitude, optimism, and a strong sense of responsibility. It's an honor to introduce myself and share my vision for our future.

My connection to Yeled v'Yalda runs deep — having served on the board for over 20 years, I've seen the extraordinary impact of our work and the unwavering dedication of our staff. This organization is built on love, support, and belief in every child, and I'm committed to strengthening that mission.

Professionally, I've spent over two decades at Chai Lifeline, working with families through their most difficult times. That experience has shaped my belief in the importance of comprehensive, compassionate care — a vision that perfectly aligns with Yeled v'Yalda's whole-child approach.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to build on our strong foundation, embrace innovation, and expand our reach. I'm proud to join such a devoted team, and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to serve children and families with care and excellence.

Thank you for all you do. Together, we will continue to make a lasting difference.

Warm regards,



Hersh Moskovits
Chief Executive Officer

We're pleased to share some recent leadership updates at Yeled VYalda and within our Head Start program. The Office of Head Start has formally approved the appointment of Mr. Nathan Salomon as Head Start Director, finalizing the leadership transition following Mr. Wayne Goldberg's retirement in December 2024. Rochel Abelsky has been promoted to Deputy Head Start Director and will now oversee education and center operations, while also working collaboratively on program improvement initiatives. At the same time, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Ruchie Akerman, our Director of Compliance, as she concludes 14 years of dedicated service to YvY.

In April, the Office of Head Start shared a new policy called Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunities for Families in Head Start Programs. It explains the government's plan to give families more choices in early education and help them make informed decisions. Yeled VYalda has already been doing many of the things this policy supports, like using funding wisely, offering flexible services, and working closely with families. This new guidance shows that Yeled has been moving in the right direction all along by focusing on strong, family-centered services.

This summer, YVY is excited to launch a new virtual meeting series called The Yeled Pulse, designed to keep all administrative staff connected and informed. By strengthening internal communication and collaboration, this initiative helps ensure that our programs continue to run smoothly and meet the needs of the children and families we serve.

Head Start/Early Head Start News

The YVY Parent Newsletter is distributed three times a year, featuring informative articles and updates from various divisions within Yeled VYalda. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Parents can address mail to Yeled VYalda Newsletter 1312 38th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218 or via email at YVYink@yeled.org



Head Start



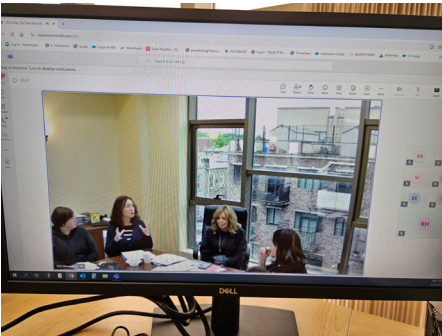
Early Head Start

- Yeled V'Yalda began a new five-year grant cycle in July 2024, and we are actively preparing for future federal reviews to ensure our programs continue to meet the highest standards. This spring, we completed our annual self-assessment, a data-driven review process that helps us monitor our goals, ensure compliance with Head Start Performance Standards, and plan for strategic improvements. Based on the findings, our Program Improvement Plan includes exciting updates such as investments in curriculum enhancements, staff development, family engagement initiatives, improved access to therapy, and facility upgrades to create even better learning environments.
- We are incredibly proud of the progress your children are making! Data from the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment Tool for the winter period showed significant growth among our Head Start and Early Head Start children, particularly in Social-Emotional Development, Cognition, and Literacy. Children who previously attended our Early Head Start program continue to outperform their peers, underscoring the lasting benefits of early intervention. It's also heartening to see that the achievement gap for children with special needs is narrowing as they move from Early Head Start to Head Start, reflecting the positive impact of the therapeutic support they receive.
- Our staff are continuously enhancing their skills to support your children's development. We prioritize ongoing training in areas like behavior management, literacy, mental health, and strategies for supporting children with special needs. Recent training sessions have included important topics such as Mental Health First Aid, Teaching Social Thinking for preschoolers, ADHD strategies, and sensory integration techniques.
- Our 16 licensed and experienced on-site mental health consultants work directly with children to support emotional regulation and behavior through classroom visits and targeted support. We collaborate with parents, teachers, home instructors, and outside agencies to strengthen children's emotional well-being, social skills, and pro-social behavior. Services include one-on-one consultations with parents and staff, parenting workshops, and referrals to community resources. Emotional regulation strategies are now being integrated into the daily curriculum, and access to therapy services is expanding. [pic: mh group]
- As part of our ongoing commitment to excellence, we are preparing for the upcoming Focus Area 1 (FA1) review. This federal, off-site assessment examines the foundational elements of our program, including how we are designed and organized to meet the needs of children and families, and ensures we are meeting Head Start requirements. Governance is a key area of focus in this review, and discussions with our Policy Councils and governing bodies are part of the preparation process.
- To improve communication internally, we've launched Thursday Thoughts sessions with our Education



Directors and reinstated Tuesday Talks with our Family Workers to ensure consistency and collaboration across all sites.

- Great news regarding WIC eligibility! In May, the NYS Department of Health updated WIC guidelines, allowing participants in programs like Head Start and Early Head Start to automatically qualify for WIC benefits. They have also introduced a Temporary 30-Day Certification process for applicants who may be missing proof of eligibility right away.
- As part of this year’s initiatives, the Early Head Start Home-Based program introduced a focus on sensory play to support early development. Staff received training on the benefits of sensory experiences for infants and toddlers, and families were given simple ways to encourage sensory engagement at home. New sensory stations in the socialization room offer families hands-on opportunities to explore activities that promote cognitive, motor, and social-emotional growth.
- For fun free events around the 5 Boros, check out this link <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/f2025-01-27/t2025-04-30/free>
- Through Museums for All, individuals receiving SNAP benefits can access free or reduced admission to more than 1,400 museums across the United States by presenting their SNAP EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card. For a full list of participating museums, visit museums4all.org.



PROJECT REACH HEAD START

This year we introduced several innovative teaching tools to help children learn about STEAM topics. For math, there was a Back-and-Forth board game with dice to encourage the children to count. The Lakeshore Can-Do experiment kits encouraged children to learn science concepts such as magnetism and buoyancy. Process Art was experienced with squeegee painting and a keepsake make-a-plate project. As a culmination of the year, Project REACH manufactured a card-game named KIDLID. It uses plastic lids as a stacking challenge to match the shapes on the professionally printed playing cards.



STATEN ISLAND CENTERS

The Home Base program organized fun trips for the teachers, students, and families. One trip was to the Staten Island Zoo where students got to explore, observe, and learn about various animals. They also had an opportunity to interact with some animals as they fed them, as well as ride a carousel. The other trip was to an indoor play space called Just Kidding Playground. Here, the students had an opportunity to socialize with one another as well as participate in gross motor activities that helped promote physical development such as stability, coordination, balance, body awareness, and building muscle strength.

At our end-of-the-year Step Up ceremony, Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, a representative from the Office of Staten Island Representatives, came and shared a few words with parents and our young graduates.

HEALTH SERVICES & NUTRITION

The Office of Head Start (OHS) recently issued a memo highlighting the critical role of nutrition in early childhood development and the importance of fostering healthy habits from a young age. In response, Yeled V’Yalda is pleased to announce the implementation of new nutrition education initiatives across our programs for the upcoming school year. These initiatives aim to further support children and families in building a strong foundation for lifelong wellness through informed food choices and healthy routines.

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote nutrition, Yeled V’Yalda participates in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide daily meals and snacks for the children. While some meals are prepared by vendors, we also operate our own kitchen—together, these sources provide over 5000 nutritious meals each day. In addition, our Director of Nutrition Services, Dina Lipkind, led an Early Childhood Staff training session on Health and Nutrition Services and presented a worksite wellness event titled Fueling Success in April to further enhance our team’s capacity to support healthy development.

In addition to nutrition, OHS has emphasized the integration of mental health into the broader scope of health services. In alignment with this guidance, Yeled V’Yalda has formally incorporated mental health as a key area of focus within our Health Advisory Committee (HAC).

The addition of mental health to the HAC’s agenda reflects our continued commitment to a holistic approach to child and family well-being.

The HAC, which convenes twice annually, plays a central role in shaping the health policies of our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The committee is composed of YVY health staff, program directors, and respected community partners, including representatives from local medical institutions and service agencies. This multidisciplinary team offers valuable expertise, enabling collaborative discussions on current community health needs and the development of responsive, evidence-based policies. Our most recent YVY Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee had a presentation from representative’s from NYCDOHMH Department of Immunization about the rates of childhood vaccination in NYC. YVY also participates in the New York State Daycare Immunization Survey which was last completed for the March 31st deadline, ensuring that enrolled YVY children are current on all required vaccinations.

Yeled V’Yalda remains deeply committed to advancing the health and well-being of the children and families we serve. By implementing comprehensive nutrition education initiatives, enhancing staff development, and integrating mental health into our broader health strategy, we continue to align with the latest guidance from the Office of Head Start while addressing the evolving needs of our community. Through strong partnerships, informed policy development, and a holistic approach to early childhood care, we are proud to foster environments where every child can thrive—physically, emotionally, and developmentally.



Yeled v’Yalda
Early Childhood Center, Inc.
1312 38th Street | Brooklyn, NY 11218

Mr. Solomon Igel
Founder - 1981

Hersh Moskovits
Chief Executive Officer
Rebecca Gutman, CPA
Chief Financial Officer
Orly Halevy
In-House Counsel-Legal Affairs

Head Start
Early Head Start
Home Based EHS
Expectant Mom’s
Project REACH
Universal Pre-K

Naomi Auerbach, MsEd
Executive Director
Nathan Salomon, MA
Director
Rochel Abelsky, BA, MsEd
Deputy Director

Special Education &
Disabilities Services
Mina Spitz, MS, SAS
Executive Director of Disabilities &
Educational Programs

Special Education
Early Intervention
ABA Therapy Services
OPWDD
Health Homes
HCBS
Title I, II, III, IV
CTSS
Student Support Services

WIC Nutrition Program
Nechama Stolzenberg, MPA,MBA
Director

NYS OHP Marketplace
Health Exchange
Ruchy Wasserman
Director

Health & Fitness Center
Feivel Honig
Director
Ruchie Herbst, B.Sc., WSIT LTI
Female Division

WIC



Yeled V’Yalda WIC continues to provide services through both in-person appointments and remote processing by phone. Farmers’ Market checks will be available starting June 2025. We’re proud to share that Yeled V’Yalda WIC was selected to participate in a New York State WIC Association workshop, offering valuable feedback on NYWIC system screens—an initiative that will impact all WIC programs across the state.



Visit our Boro Park location: 1312 38th Street, 2nd floor; Entrance C; Brooklyn, New York 11218

Fax: 718-686-2196 Email: WIC@yeled.org

Phone: 718-686-3799 or Nechama Stolzenberg at 718-686-2124.

Marketplace



The Yeled V’Yalda Marketplace program is designed to meet the needs of the community by providing enrollment assistance to individuals and families applying for health insurance through the NYSOH Marketplace.

Trained and experienced Navigators are available to assist individuals in finding the best insurance plan for which they are eligible, and to address any questions about their current policy. The YVY Marketplace office provides help with insurance plans provided through Medicaid, Essential Plan, Child Health Plus and the Affordable Care Act.

YVY Marketplace has locations in Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Staten Island. For further information or to set up an appointment, please call 718-686-2188.

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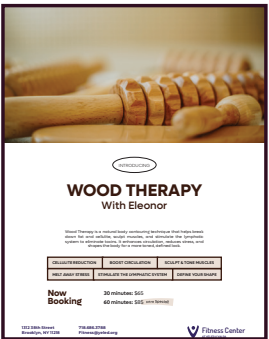
For further information or to set up an appointment, please call 718-686-2188.

FITNESS



The Fitness Center continues to offer a wide range of wellness services, including fitness classes, swim lessons, Wood Therapy Massage, and Compression Therapy—available to both men and women. Six new swim instructors were recently certified through our in-house American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor course. In February, we hosted a nutrition booth with healthy eating tips, followed by a well-attended Men's Fitness Competition this past May.

The Fitness Center is located at 1312 38th Street, Entrance C. For more information, call 718-686-3788 or email fitness@yeled.org.



Special Ed & Related Services

YvY’s Keshet program at the 1257 38th Street Learning Center is specifically designed for children ages 2-5 who benefit from a smaller, more personalized environment. This full-day program includes lunch, snack, and transportation within Boro Park, focusing on individualized attention, hands-on learning, independence, and resilience. Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is currently open.

We continue to prioritize support for students who receive Special Education Services through an Individualized Education Services Program (IESP). In March, we sent emails to parents of eligible students with clear instructions and prefilled forms to help facilitate the required submission of the Parental Notice of Intent (PNI) to the NYC Department of Education by the June 1st deadline.



Governance



In March, Board members took part in a governance training led by Tammy Jelinek of WIPFLI LLP, a national expert in nonprofit and Head Start governance. The session helped both new and returning members understand their roles and responsibilities under key federal guidelines. Strong, informed leadership is essential for keeping the agency updated in regulation and compliance.

The Policy Council, made up of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members, helps guide and make decisions about the program. Throughout the year, the Policy Council met regularly as a group. At the March PC meeting, Naomi Auerbach, Executive Director, drew the Policy Council’s attention to the Head Start Management Systems Wheel, which clearly outlines the role of program governance in Head Start. At the final Head Start Policy Council meeting of the year, Ruchie Herbst, WSIT, LTI, delivered an engaging presentation on Hands-Only CPR — a simple, lifesaving technique designed for bystanders. Participants each received an American Red Cross compression practice tool, shaped like an ambulance, and left feeling empowered, informed, and ready to save a life.

Together with the Board of Directors and management staff, the Policy Council plays a key role in providing leadership and strategic direction for the organization. Head Start has always seen parents as essential partners in the work of educating young children. YvY thanks the 2024–25 Policy Council members who volunteered their time to be part of this important partnership.



Trainings organized by Yeled VYalda continue to promote personal and professional growth for employees and therapists. Some of the professional presenters and fascinating topics featured recently included:

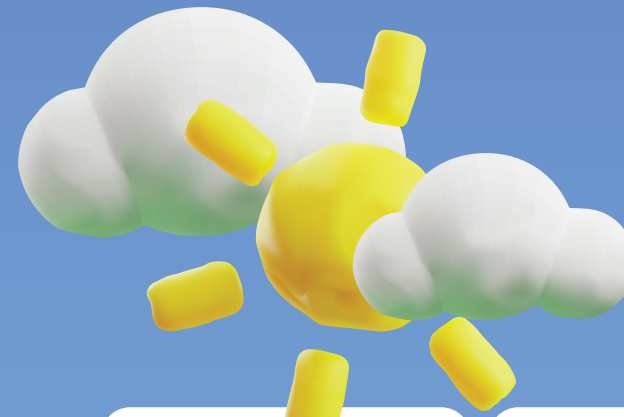
- Teaching Social Thinking for the Preschooler
[Lori Schlossberg MSEd](#)
- Kid Friendly ADHD Management
[Dr. Michael Felt](#)
- Innovative strategies for incorporating centers
[Eida Pinson](#)
- Product vs. process
[Rose Latí and Erica Maswary](#)
- The Growth Mindset
[Nechama Furman, MSEd](#)
- Treating Auditory Processing / Listening Challenges in Children
[Lois K. Heymann, MA CCC-SLP](#)
- Guidance for specific students at CUTA preschool
[Shprintz Lieberman, OTR](#)
- Conscious Discipline
[Cheryl Cotter, MSEd. and Sorah Moss, MS Ed, BCBA, LBA](#)
- Sensory Processing for School Success
[Shprincy Lieberman, OTR/L](#)
- Using Social Stories to Enhance SEL Skills
[Chana Leah Furst, MSEd](#)
- Partnering with Parents to Make Social and Emotional Learning Stick
[Elizabeth Sautter, MA, CCC](#)
- Strategic Comprehension Boosters
[Peshy Hirsch, SLP](#)
- Purpose of EI screenings
[Dena Borenstein, MSEd](#)
- Consequences – Teaching Accountability Through Logical Outcomes
[Sorah Moss, MS Ed, BCBA/LBA and Cheryl Cotter, MSEd](#)
- Commitment to Quality: Essential Updates for LBAs
[Suri Sternhill and Mina Sputz](#)
- Enhancing Health, Energy and Productivity
[Dina Lipkind MS,RD,CDN: Fueling Success](#)
- The Calendar: A Multi-Sensory Linguistic Approach to Learning Temporal Concepts
[Chanie Berkovits, MS, CCC/SLP](#)
- Child Development Associate Credentialing (CDA)
[Rivky Bornstein, Sarah Steiner, MSEd](#)
- Family Development Credential Program (FDC)
[Libby Chein, MS, SpEd](#)
- Water Safety Instructor (WSI)
[Ruchie Herbst, WSIT](#)
- CPR/First Aid Certification Renewals
[Chevy Katz, CPRI](#)
- Child Abuse; Mandated Reporter
[Alyssa Schnur, LCSW](#)



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PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Family engagement is a cornerstone of our programs at Yeled VYalda. Across our sites, we recently held special events to celebrate Passover and other seasonal holidays. Our Reading Readiness initiative continues to provide free books and encourage early literacy at home. Our family workers are here to support your engagement through workshops and ongoing communication.



Each child is
unique and
can succeed.

Early Head Start



Head Start



Staten Island

Learning occurs within the context of relationships.

Areas of development are integrated, and children learn many concepts and skills at the same time.

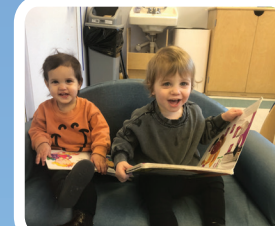


Lakewood

Families are children's first and most important caregivers, teachers, and advocates.

Teaching must be intentional and focused on how children learn and grow.

Every child has different strengths rooted in their family's culture, background, language, and beliefs.





6 SUMMER SAFETY TIPS



Stay safe around water

Keep your eyes on kids when they splash and swim

Buckle that helmet

Helmets snug on heads before bikes or scooters go.



Drink water often

Hot days means more sips, before, during, and after play.

Check that playground

Look for soft ground and make sure grown-ups are around.



Don't stay in the car

Cars heat up fast. Never leave a child alone, even for a minute.

Don't burn

Apply sunscreen so you won't feel the burn.



CALM DOWN **ANGER** WITH YOGA



I AM AN ELEPHANT

I CAN BEND OVER AND
RELEASE MY ANGER.



I AM A JACKAL

I CAN EXHALE AND LET GO
OF MY FRUSTRATIONS.



I AM A CROCODILE

I CAN FEEL MY BODY
CALMING DOWN.



I AM A HIPPO

I AM "OKAY". I AM
SURROUNDED WITH LOVE.



I AM A LION

I AM SAFE. I CAN FEEL MY
WHOLE BODY RELAXED.



**1312 38th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11218**
Phone: 718.686.3700
www.yeled.org

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info@yeled.org

Attention All Head Start, Early Head Start Parents & Expectant Moms Program Participants: Free and discounted Fitness Center Pass options will become available again after the summer.

Hilda Valentin, Education Director of our New Morning Staten Island Day Care Center, was recently honored at the Child Care Appreciation dinner at Gracie Mansion. This well-deserved recognition celebrates her incredible dedication to children, families, and the community.

Personal note from Hilda:

I wanted to share some pictures of last night. It was truly such an honor to represent Yeled V' Yalda at this event. I was able to meet so many program leaders. The words shared were truly heartwarming. The mayor... shared a pre-recorded message of appreciation and spoke about the over \$200 million dollars the city is investing in Early Childhood. I was able to meet the Deputy Mayor, Ana Almanzar who also expressed her sincere appreciation to programs such as ours and the enormous impact they have in our communities.

Thank you to the leadership of Yeled V' Yalda for your unwavering support and dedication to staff development which helps us stand out as a program of excellence!



For more information on any of Yeled v'Yalda's services, please call:

Head Start.....	718.686.3700 *3	ABA Program	718.514.8600 *4	Silver Lake Headstart II
Early Head Start	718.514.8600 *1	ABA Insurance	718.686.2302	20 Park Hill Circle.....
Project REACH	718.514.8600	Ezra Medical Center.....	718.686.7600	718.720.0090
Special Education	718.686.3700 *1	WIC Program.....	718.686.3799	
Early Intervention	718.686.3700 *2	NYS Health Marketplace..	718.686.2189	
Title Services	718.757.7074	Fitness Center	718.686.3788	