

The Alfred G. Rayner Learning Center



The Alfred G. Rayner Learning Center was founded in 1984 to provide daily care for infants and young children. From its fledgling origins, the school has evolved into a multi-level day care and learning center for pre-kindergarten children.

The Alfred G. Rayner Learning Center has two goals:

1. To provide safe, quality, professional care and supervision of the children entrusted to the school.
2. To begin the educational process by providing a foundation of values and skills using learning techniques that are developmentally appropriate.

The Alfred G. Rayner Learning Center provides a healthy functional physical environment, a structured, progressive, developmentally appropriate curriculum, knowledgeable teachers, and encourages the involvement of parents.

From infancy to preschool your child will engage in exciting learning activities specifically designed to meet their needs and help them develop in all areas. The focus of our programming:

- Emphasizes Judaism, its customs and culture
- Builds language skills
- Develops gross and fine motor skills
- Fosters critical thinking
- Encourages positive social interactions
- Nurtures creativity and curiosity

Our program also offers:

- Music classes taught by a certified teacher
- Mousercise, a floor-based gymnastics program
- Annual speech, hearing and vision screenings
- Visits from the fire department, zoo, school buses, police department, dentist and others
- Interesting seminars or courses for parents

To find out more about our program call 225-924-6772 to schedule a tour. **Tours are by appointment only.**

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Alfred G. Rayner Learning Center

Themes for the Year 2016-2017

* We will focus on ABC's and 123's, colors and shapes, and story elements (Who?, What?, When?, Where?, Why?) all school year long.

September

Orientation: Getting to know classroom rules and each other.
All About Me
Science Activity
Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Manners

October

Rosh Hashanah
Apples & Bees
Yom Kippur
Sukkot
Kol Nidre
Simchat Torah
Nutrition
Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music

November

Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Fall
Music
Fire Safety
Thanksgiving
Noah's Ark
Nutrition
Stone Soup
Science Activity

December

Hanukkah
Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Science Activity
Music

January

Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Nursery Rhymes
Parts of the Body
Science Activity: Arachnids and Spiders
Colors and Shapes
Winter

February

Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
President's Day
Pets
Farm Animals
Community - Places & People
Tu B'Shevat & Trees

March

Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Insects
Spring
Transportation
Purim
Mitzvah Project

April

Dinosaurs
Plants
Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Science Activity
Pesach (Passover)

May

Mother's Day
Marine Life
End of the Year Projects
Jewish Values, Celebrations, & Music
Science Activity
Yom Ha'Atzmaut
(Israel's Independence Day)

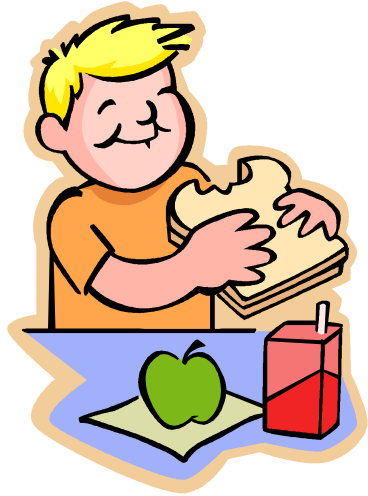
(Teachers are allowed to express, and demonstrate their new ideas and creativity with the lessons.)

Each day classes will sing "Good Morning Boker-Tov", "God Loves You", and "Days of the Week". Please note themes are subject to change. Shabbat will be celebrated and the Torah portion will be taught on a weekly basis. Holidays are based on the Jewish calendar year for 2016-2017.



What Does Your Child Need?

1. A nutritious lunch: include a drink, **napkin, fork and/or spoon** when needed. Please label the lunch box on the outside and all plastic containers that are to be returned home. We ask that you adhere to the Jewish dietary laws (see: 'Let's Do Lunch' handout enclosed.)
2. A complete change of clothes: clothes, underwear, closed toe shoes and socks placed in a large zip-lock bag. The extra pair of shoes is beneficial if your child is potty learning. ***Please label*** each item and the bag. ***If your child has an accident at school and does not have a change of clothes, the parent will be called to pick-up or bring clothing for their child.***
3. Diapers and/or pull-ups: Velcro only (if used); ***please initial*** each diaper on the FOLD. Rayner Center will not accept unlabeled diapers or pull-ups.
4. If potty learning: Please discuss this with the teacher and/or director before we start this process.
5. Baby wipes: All children need to bring one large container of baby wipes to start the year. Parents whose children are still in diapers will also be asked to bring supplies as needed.
6. Snacks: The state requires that parents bring all food so please bring one frozen can of apple juice and a snack for each of your children's classrooms on the first of each month. If your child stays for afternoon care, please bring ***an additional snack*** each month for that as well. This snack should be able to feed all of the children in your child's class. Please see the 'Snack List' with suggestions for snacks.
7. One large box of Kleenex.
8. A sleeping mat, if your child will be napping. You can purchase this in the office for \$27.20 or provide your own within the state guideline's standards. Nap mats will go home every Friday for cleaning. ***Mats must be 18.5" x 45"***



Let's Do Lunch!!!

Remember that your child needs to bring his or her lunch to school each day.

Everything should be in a small lunch box or bag (soft) that will fit into our refrigerator. (Space is limited.)

All food should be wrapped or in a covered container. Please include a drink, napkin, and spoon or fork if needed.

Lunch should be ready to serve to your child—fruit washed, peeled and cut, sandwiches assembled, etc. **FOR THE TODDLERS AND THE 2+ CLASSES, POP-TOP CANS SHOULD BE EMPTIED IN A PLASTIC BOWL WITH A LID BEFORE ARRIVING TO SCHOOL FOR EASIER SELF-FEEDING.** We will microwave when necessary. **Hot dogs must be sliced lengthwise and cross way and grapes cut in half lengthwise to avoid danger of choking.** We will not serve these items to your child if they are not cut properly.

Please **DO NOT SEND:** chips (including Cheez Its), candy, raw peas, gum, carbonated drinks (in a can or thermos), nuts, seeds, pretzels, popcorn with the kernel, marshmallows, small carrots, raw carrot rounds, hot dogs sliced in rounds, whole hot dogs, whole fruit, anything in glass, or anything your child can not chew or handle easily. Also, please remember we are a Jewish pre-school and housed in a synagogue. With respect to Jewish dietary laws, we ask that you not send pork products, including: ham, bacon, sausage, pork hot dogs, or pepperoni. Also, no catfish, or shellfish including: crawfish, shrimp, or crabmeat.

We want lunch to be an enjoyable, social time for your child. Please remember, however, that what is simple to do for one child, or even a little messy, may be very complicated and very messy when trying to accommodate several children simultaneously.

Please check with your child's teacher regarding his or her lunch schedule. You are welcome to come and have lunch with your child at any time.

SNACK LIST

Our children enjoy the following snacks during their snack time:

1. Teddy Grahams
2. Fruit snacks
3. Corn/cheese puffs
4. Applesauce
5. Animal crackers (chocolate and plain)
6. Graham crackers
7. Vanilla wafers
8. Cinnamon schoolbook cookies from Trader Joes
9. Puffcorn
10. Quaker Popped rice crisps snacks
11. Canned fruit (individual containers)
12. Raisins
13. Austin Crackers variety pack (crackers with cheese or peanut butter in the middle)
14. Applesauce
15. Goldfish
16. Breakfast bars & granola bars
17. Pudding
18. Jello
19. Veggie straws
20. Cheerios (no honey nut, please!)
21. Green bean crisps
22. Yogurt tubes
23. String cheese
24. Fruit snacks
25. Plain crackers
26. Rice chex cereal
27. Cheese balls
28. Corn chex cereal
29. Fresh fruit (cut and individually wrapped or bagged)
30. Cookies



****Please do not send Cheez Its, pretzels, marshmallows, any nuts, any items that come in a pop top lid, chips, popcorn with the kernel, OR seeds****



Let's Talk About... Illness, Medications, & Naps

ILLNESS: We will call you if your child has an unknown rash, diarrhea, a fever of 100 degrees or higher, or is vomiting. They cannot return to school until they are symptom free for 24 hours. If your child vomits, please do not bring him/her to school thinking it's only something they have eaten. In the past, this has caused a virus to spread throughout the school.

MEDICATION: For the well being of all our children, we are unable to give any medication without instructions from your child's doctor. You must fill out a medication form giving the school permission to give the medication. Please be sure that no medication is brought to school in a backpack or lunch box. Medication must be given to the Director or a teacher and it will be kept in the school office.

NAPS: If your child naps at school, he or she may want to bring **one small cuddly toy** or blanket that is labeled. Please send a note in your child's lunch box or notify the office if his or her nap schedule changes. Due to staffing, extra days of napping must be cleared through _____ the _____ Director.

INJURIES: By state law, licensing requires parents to be notified of: any injury above the neck, human bites that break the skin, blood not contained in an adhesive strap, animal bites, allergic reaction skin changes, unusual breathing, impaled object, broken or dislodged teeth, symptoms of dehydration, or any illness/injury requiring professional medical _____ attention.

****We are asking parents to please purchase a napping mat.** It makes it convenient for the staff as well as the parents. We send them home every Friday to be washed and returned on Monday. You can purchase a mat through the office for \$27.20. If they are not purchased from Rayner, they must be 18.5" x 45" and at the Director's discretion.

A Few Words about Carpool...



****You will not be allowed to attend for the day if you arrive after 10AM. If your child has an early morning doctor's appointment, please bring your doctor's note and you may attend that day after 10AM.****

We try to make life easy for you and safe for your children, so please note that there are specific carpool times during which a teacher is on duty to escort your children from your car into the building:

Morning carpool: 8:55 AM - 9:10 AM

Simply pull up along the sidewalk, in the lane directly in front of the building, and we will come to the car for your child in the morning and with your child in the afternoon.

All children may participate in carpool except those who are brought in infant carriers or car seats. We will gladly come get your child out of the seat; however we cannot carry a child in their seat.

Please do not park in the carpool lane if you are coming inside. Before or after the specified times, or if you choose to bring your child in, or if he/she needs to finish eating, etc., please park in a regular parking space (not a handicapped space, please!) and take your child to class. **PLEASE hold your child's hand until you are inside.** Children are unpredictable, and our parking lot is a very busy place!

Please make sure the proper information is on file in the office if someone other than Mom or Dad will be picking up your child. We need the name of anyone other than a parent who will pick him/her up. We also need identification for that person and written permission from you on file.

Something to think about . . .

Parents, in most instances it is easier for your child to say good-bye **one time** and then start immediately into the school day. Even though there may be a minute or two of tears, the transition is actually much easier for most children if they leave you at the car and then re-focus their attention on their work and play. Everyone needs an extra hug or a minute longer now and then, but a consistent routine will generally make morning separations easier. Linger in the halls or on the playground with your child may actually increase anxiety about your departure and make the inevitable separation even more difficult for both of you. You are of course; welcome to stay at school until you are comfortable about leaving. Come have a cup of coffee or just hang out in the office, but try not to let your child know that you are here.

Once your child has left his/her dismissal area with you, you become responsible for his/her supervision. Please hold your child's hand at all times. We know at this age they want to do it "by themselves," however we must think about the safety of the children.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



Holiday Care

Holiday care is a service we provide for all of our parents.

Holiday care dates are listed in the calendar as well as being posted ahead of time in the monthly newsletter. A sign up sheet will be posted in front of the office a few weeks ahead of time. **If your child is not signed up by the deadline we will not be able to hold a spot for your child during these days.** **Please note that your child's name must be removed from the sign-up sheet before the deadline in order for you not to be charged.**

In order for us to provide this service, we must have 12 or more children signed up per day.

Children who are scheduled for holiday care will be charged \$17.50 from 7:30AM-6:00PM. You will be billed for all days scheduled to attend, whether your children does so or not.

When signing your child up for holiday care, please write down the times in which you need care; for example: 8:30 - 4:00 rather than saying "all day". This allows us to properly staff for these days.

Thank you ahead of time for your cooperation in this matter!

Music Class

With Mrs. Connie Boles

(\$7.50 a month)



All children love music, whether it is watching a fun video, singing along with a beloved CD in the car, or participating in a live music class. The value of music learning has been a prominent subject in the news media for almost ten years, and no one can dispute the priceless look of sheer joy on a child's face when he is singing a favorite song.

My name is Connie Boles, and I provide instructional music classes for the children at the Rayner Learning Center. I earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in music education from LSU, and I have been teaching music for over 20 years. I have numerous excellent references from the various facilities at which I have taught, including public elementary schools and preschools, daycare centers, and a local music store.

In addition to the inherent value of music education, there is the added benefit of using music to teach innumerable concepts such as the alphabet and vowel sounds, vocabulary, numbers and counting, nursery rhymes, and singing in languages other than English--just to name a few! All music classes include singing, movement, rhythm training, introductory music reading activities, ear training, and playing rhythm instruments.

Music is offered to our one year old through four & five year old classrooms; all children participate.



Mousercise

Mousercise is an in-house gymnastics program offered by Mrs. Courtney Macha, owner and head coach of Tumbling Tigers. Classes are held once a week for 30 minutes before noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is an aerobics based class where a small trampoline, low balance beam, wedge mat, and other specialized gymnastics equipment are used.

Busy Bees, Terrific Bees, and Fantastic Kids have class on Tuesdays.

Wonder Kids and Pre-K have class on Wednesdays.

Please have your child wear tennis shoes for Mousercise. If you have a daughter, please have her hair in a ponytail or away from her face.

To register, please send a \$28 payment to cover the cost of insurance. This will cover your child for the entire year. Please place your child's name in the memo if you're writing a check. A \$10 charge will be applied to all NSF checks.

Rayner Learning Center will bill you each month in the amount of \$10.00. Only the registration fee will be paid to Tumbling Tigers.

If you have any further questions, please see Mrs. Courtney Macha.

**** Children may not participate without a registration fee, Mousercise sign up form, and a Rayner Learning Center permission form ****

Bottle Labels Policy



Dear Parents,

Rayner has adopted a new policy concerning all tots, infants, and Busy Bee classes. We must have all baby bottles (nipple cap and ring), food containers and sippy cups with special labels. We have adopted this policy because it is against state guidelines for Rayner to have any unmarked items. We can't use permanent markers because it washes off during the sanitizing process.

We have provided a website where you can purchase 40 personalized waterproof dishwasher safe vinyl baby labels that last for 6 months for \$9.50(see instruction below). Please purchase your labels as soon as possible so that Rayner does not receive a write up from the state.

Shalom,
Dottie & Staff

You can purchase from:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MeYDecals>

Labeling Diapers/Pull Ups



Parents, we ask that you please label all diapers and pull-ups. Please place their initials on the fold of each pull-up/diaper so that it is easily accessed.