



TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES 2023 / 2024

We are so proud of our fantastic teaching team this year! Each Morah is an outstanding professional, dedicated to the craft of early childhood education. Teacher biographies are presented below:

PRE KINDERGARTEN

Chana Yager

I am so excited to be returning for another incredible year at Gan of Greenwich. I'm deeply passionate about education and I always knew that I wanted to become an educator! My earliest memories as a little girl involve lining up my dolls, singing to them, and playing school, which is very similar to an average day in preschool. I've continuously dreamed of helping educate and inspire the future generation of thinkers, creators, and leaders. It has been a pleasure being able to do so for the past ten years. I grew up in the Florida sunshine always helping and volunteering my time in various programs geared for children of all ages. Within my own family, my nieces & nephews are my pride and joy! After graduating high school, I spent one year abroad in Israel furthering my education in a teachers training program in the mountains of Tzfat. When I moved back to the United States, I relocated to New York and graduated with both my Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Special Education with a focus on the early childhood years. Throughout my journey as a teacher, I've worked in various school settings, developed different techniques, and trained in the Montessori Method. I'm a firm believer that a child's early childhood years are the foundational and fundamental time for their development. If I have learned anything from my years of teaching, it's that children are individuals and have their own unique strengths and learning styles. My goal is to help children explore the world around them, discover their individual strengths, and create a loving respectful classroom community. I'm committed to creating an environment that celebrates your child's individuality and talents. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year ahead of partnering together in the education of your child.

Chaya Feller

Growing up in Stamford, CT as one of ten siblings, I've been a part of the wonderful journey of teaching and caring for children from a very young age. After graduating high school, I completed two years of teacher's training program, which then led me to the opportunity to teach at Gan of Greenwich. It was then that I found my love and passion for teaching young children - something I wanted to dedicate myself to. After marrying and settling in Brooklyn, I continued teaching preschool. I am overjoyed to be back at Gan of Greenwich this year! Throughout my experiences I've always felt a strong connection to young children - watching them discover, connect, and develop is an incredible experience! I'm excited to connect with your children, discover each of their unique qualities and talents, and grow together with them!

THREE's

Mushky Blizinsky

Ever since I can remember, I have been caring for children. I am the second eldest of 12 children. I have three beautiful children of my own and I have been teaching preschool for 12 years. I also taught the kindergarten class at the Chabad of Greenwich Hebrew School for six years. My first year as a teacher was in a special education program, HASC Preschool. It was a phenomenal experience that has helped shape me as a teacher and a parent every day. Since then, I have worked in preschools in Manhattan and Brooklyn. While teaching, I pursued a BA in Psychology and a Masters in General and Special Education. I love learning about children, learning from them, and helping them to learn their true selves. The preschool years are the most fundamental time in a child's development and I believe in finding what each child needs individually while guiding them to develop interpersonal skills. I am so grateful and honored for the trust you give me with your children's care and education. I am looking forward to meeting you all and having an exciting, FUN, and enriching year together!

Chaya Backman

I am so excited to be joining Gan of Greenwich! As the second of eleven, I've been taking care of children for as long as I can remember. Their eagerness to learn and explore is amazing. I believe that these early years are incredibly important for a child's growth. Teaching is something that I really care about. I want to help create a nurturing environment where each child receives individual attention. I'm looking forward to a fantastic time at Gan of Greenwich, where I can contribute to the growth and development of these young minds in such a special and formative stage of their lives.

TWO's

Nicole Hebel (Aleph)

I grew up and studied in Santiago, Chile, where I graduated from a Theatre and Communications College with a degree in Education. I chose theatre because it combines communication skills, creative expression, and artistic ability. I love using movement to express ideas and tell a story. I believe that this could be a tool for changing lives! I wrote my thesis on "How to Prevent Childhood Obesity," because I also have an interest in fitness and health in children, I researched teaching through active games and have worked in several schools using this approach. 15 years ago I came to the United States to learn English in a Cultural Exchange Program. I became part of the Chabad community and began working as a teacher in the preschool. My passion for teaching and interest in wellness led me to become a health coach, focusing on children's nutrition, and later I added some gardening and sustainability practices into my repertoire of education skills and practices. I look forward to using these abilities as I teach a Cooking, Gardening and Art this year! I find that being a teacher incorporates all my passions, and offers the opportunity to learn from the children and grow every day. As Marshall McLuhan once said, "Anyone who makes a distinction between education and entertainment doesn't know the first thing about either." I look forward to a fun and memorable year!

Esther Benzaquon (Aleph)

Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to become an educator! I love working with young children and seeing how much they grow - and little by little become their own person with their own abilities and characteristics. I was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and raised in Barcelona, Spain, where I completed my studies in Education and Early Childhood Education. I have been working in education for 15 years, and this is my second year at Gan of Greenwich. I'm looking forward to a great year of growth and fun with all of the children!

Kathy Carias (Aleph)

Growing up in a large family has been my biggest blessing. Ever since I can remember I have been the babysitter of the family. I love being around children and helping them learn and grow. I am currently working towards a BA in Social Work and Communications. This past summer I worked as a counselor in Camp Gan Israel's Mini Gan - and I loved it! I'm thrilled to continue at Gan of Greenwich as part of the teaching team. I am excited for the new school year and meeting the children and their families.

Karina Mirchuk (Bet)

I was born and raised in Buenos Aires Argentina and am the mother of two beautiful children - Santiago (10) and Carmela (7). My family moved to the Greenwich area in 2021 and I joined Gan of Greenwich soon after. I graduated from the SH.I. Agnón in Argentina as an Early Childhood teacher and also earned a degree in Educational Management. I have been teaching preschool for the past 20 years in Jewish communities in Buenos Aires and also in Bogotá, Colombia. Every time a school year begins I think of all the wonderful learning that happens at the younger ages. Children are discovering the world and I feel blessed to accompany them on their journey. This year, our Preschool is introducing a Spanish program that I will be leading. I hope you will join us in this fantastico Journey! I love my profession and I am grateful for each of the opportunities that have been presented to me throughout my life. Looking forward to meeting you all and having a remarkable school year together.

Chaya Ceitlin (Bet)

Growing up with many younger siblings I have always been surrounded by the excitement of young children. Although always dreaming about being involved in education one day, I never pictured myself working in preschool. That is until I found myself working with three year olds in camp one summer. It was just for a few short weeks but I fell in love. The way the children asked questions with such curiosity, the way they sang so passionately and the way that they love so abundantly, I knew this is where my heart lies. For two years I studied in Jerusalem in an intensive Jewish studies and early education program. It was there that I gained the skills, passion and commitment to infuse young children with a joy and love for their heritage and a deep care for the world around them. I've taught preschool for four years, and now as a mother of two I cannot think of a higher calling than to come back into the classroom and create for your children a world where those around them are rooting for them, caring for their every need, and instilling in them a deeply rooted confidence and joy as they begin to take on the world around them.

TODDLERS**Denise Broide**

I was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina to a family of seven children and moved to NYC in 2003 with my husband, before relocating to Greenwich in 2011. I earned a Bachelor's in Law from the University of Buenos Aires. I have worked as a substitute teacher at Gan of Greenwich and Camp Gan since first moving to Connecticut, which provided me with varied experience working with children and Morahs in all classes from Toddlers through Pre-k. In 2019 I came on board full time as a teacher in the Toddler class. My two children, Jack and Sophia, both graduated from Chabad Hebrew School. I enjoy helping children develop and learn, and I find watching their transformation from the beginning to the end of the year to be amazing! I believe that each child is unique, and when they feel loved and accepted they shine. I look forward to getting to know you and your children. I'm excited to be part of Gan of Greenwich and look forward to a great, fun and successful year together!

Suly Corleto

As the older sister to four brothers, I have been taking care of children for most of my life. I am so happy and thankful to G-d to return to Chabad Preschool for another year. I am the mother of two beautiful princesses, Sofia (11) and Cesia (9). This is my 7th year working at Chabad - each year has been wonderful and full of so many unforgettable moments. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and creating. I strive to provide an impactful environment for your children. I appreciate the trust and confidence from the parents to allow me to be part of the lives and education of your children. Because I work with Toddlers in the morning and help with the Aftercare program in the afternoon, I have the opportunity to teach children of different ages – I find this very motivating. Seeing your children smile, share and grow always warms my heart.