

Dear fellow shul member,

One look at the “kiddie kiddush” tables on shabbos and it’s clear that Congregation Ohr HaTorah is booming (literally!). There are so many little faces and we are all amazed at how quickly the babies of yesterday are turning into the “big kids” of today.

We hope you have been able to appreciate the increased attention and work put into Shabbat childcare at the shul and we are continuing to work on the details to make the groups the best they can be. The 2010-2011 group leaders will be announced shortly and this year you can look forward to more creative “incentives” for attendance (no candy!) and upgraded activities. **Even if you or your family do not personally take advantage of the children’s programming, it is vital both for the decorum and kiruv goals of the shul.**

We hope you will help us attain our goals for the childcare groups:

- Age divisions will be respected (and formally divided) as follows:
  - Less than 2 years old
  - 2-4 years old
  - Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Groups will begin *promptly* at 10 AM and finish when davening concludes
- Groups will meet every shabbos during the school year (except during extended school vacations)
- Groups will be structured with planned and purposeful activities (not just babysitting and candy)
- Groups will have continuity and camaraderie

**Of course, this initiative is not free to the shul.** Besides the addition of needed supplies, the group leaders receive some financial compensation for their dedication and hard work. A modest budget has been proposed and, like last year, I have personally accepted upon myself to raise the needed funds. The good news is that you will be surprised at how little it will cost you! **We are asking for a minimum donation of just \$36 per family for the entire year.** That’s less than \$1/week! Again, even if you do not have young children, I ask that you still make this small donation to a cause that is imperative to the integrity of our shul on Shabbat morning. If you are able, other sponsorship opportunities are available.

**Please take a moment to click on the following link to make an online donation that is earmarked for this purpose. It will only take a moment to do! (Please--save us a later phone call and do it now!)**

**[Ohr HaTorah Child Care Donation Form](#)**

Thank you and we look forward to shabbos with happy, occupied children!

Fondly,  
*Miriam Banarer*

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