



Derech Eretz Montessori provides a fully integrated secular and Jewish Montessori environment that supports the 3-6 year old child on his path to independence by:

- Fostering character development
- Supporting developmental needs
- Addressing individual academic achievement
- Helping the Jewish child to find his unique place within the Jewish community

In the Bayit, the child learns through hands-on manipulation and self-directed activity. He thrives in an expanded social environment that has opportunities to interact and explore within a group of mixed-age children.

During this time, the child thirsts for more than just an academic education, he also needs the education of character, or Middos, that the Bayit provides. The child learns how to care for himself and his environment, to be polite and considerate of others, and that all actions have naturally occurring consequences.

**“The child is both hope and a promise
for mankind.”**

Derech Eretz Montessori will include these general areas:

- ❖ **Practical Life:** Exercises that assist the child with care of self, the environment, and concern for others. Concentration, self-discipline and physical coordination are developed.
- ❖ **Sensorial:** Exercises that offer a clear approach to foster the continuing effort of the child to categorize the qualities he experiences through his senses. They assist the child with sense discrimination, observation, and descriptive language for what he has experienced.
- ❖ **Language:** Bi-lingual activities in both English and Hebrew that support the child in his spoken, written and reading language abilities. Work in this area lays the foundation for future study of Jewish texts.
- ❖ **Mathematics:** Activities that provide the child with the necessary foundation for counting and number relationships, including an overview of the decimal system and Hebrew numbers. Careful design of the materials in both the mathematic and sensorial area lays the foundation for future learning in geometry and algebra.
- ❖ **Beit Knesset Me'at:** An area that provides the child with simple, yet beautiful materials that allow the child to grow closer to Hashem based upon his developmental needs. These activities support the child's participation within the Jewish community in both a home and synagogue setting.

The role of the Morah:

The Morah's role is twofold. First, to observe each child to see what he shows interest in or readiness for. Then the Morah stimulates that interest and supports his readiness through exercises and activities with materials that meet the child's developmental needs.

Depending upon the age and need of the child, he may stay three or four years with the same Morah. This enables the Morah, parents, and child to develop an intimate relationship that allows the Morah to provide the necessary support for the developmental needs of each child. The Morah assists the child in his developmental work related to order, movement, sensory perception, functional independence, social life, spoken and written language, mathematics, and Jewish practices and traditions. The Morah also offers sensorial and language extensions in art, music, biology, physical science, history, and geography.

Although many of the activities in the Bayit seem academically oriented, Derech Eretz Montessori strives to help children develop self-confidence, personal responsibility, and the discipline that comes from within. As the child grows and his ability to participate in the community at large expands, we hope to instill within him a sense of obligation to help others and to seek out positive and appropriate ways to resolve differences or conflicts that may arise.

“Where there is no derech erez, there is no Torah.”



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