



# Beth Ami Community Nursery School

4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95405 • phone (707) 360-3030 • fax (707) 360-3031

## NURSERY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Beth Ami Community Nursery School (BACNS) is located at Congregation Beth Ami (CBA) in Santa Rosa. Our preschool is committed to quality Early Childhood Education. We strive to present a program that teaches the whole child - socially, physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. BACNS welcomes all families: Jewish, non-Jewish, interfaith, no faith, multi-generational, single-parent, and same-sex parent families. You do not need to be a member at CBA to belong to our preschool community.

- **Reggio-Inspired Curriculum:** Our curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Philosophy, which is based on the idea that children are scientists. As their teachers, we provide them with the materials, space, and time to investigate their questions about the world. We meet each child where they are developmentally, and use our observations of their interests, developmental stages, and unique approach to learning to develop curriculum.
- **Jewish Curriculum:** We focus on universal Jewish values with an emphasis on kavod (respect, honor) and chesed (loving kindness). We celebrate Jewish culture and traditions with holiday festivities and the weekly celebration of Shabbat (Sabbath) incorporating music, dance, stories, art, play, cooking and baking challah (braided bread), all in developmentally appropriate ways.
- **Social-Emotional Development:** In an effort to move our children towards the long-term goal of self regulation and peaceful collaboration, we work with children daily on social problem solving and on righting wrongs. When children struggle with each other, we meet them where they are developmentally and help them find the language and strategies to work through their struggles.
- **Inclusion:** Here at Beth Ami, we are committed to ensuring the support and inclusion of all children regardless of ability. Our staff has engaged in a year-long process of deepening our understanding of what it means to be an inclusive school community, and has been learning techniques to meet the needs of all of our children.
- **Our Classrooms:** BACNS has four self-contained classroom programs, taught by teams of two to three teachers each: Our Shorashim (roots) class which serves children who are two at the beginning of the year and are turning three; Our Shtilim (saplings) class which serves children who are three and turning four; our Anafim (branches) class, which serves a mixed age group of three's, four's, and five's; and our Alim (leaves) class, which serves four- and five-year-olds, including those eligible for TK

Please visit our website at: [www.bethamir.org/education/nurseryschool](http://www.bethamir.org/education/nurseryschool) for all your Nursery School needs

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- **Teacher-to-Child Ratios and Class Sizes:** Our teacher-to-child ratios are very low and our classes small: 4 children to 1 teacher in Shorashim (8 kids on any given day with 2 teachers), 6 to 1 in Shtilim (12:2), and 7 to 1 (14:2) in Alim and Anafim.
- **Our Teachers:** BACNS teachers are highly experienced and educated. Many have advanced degrees in education or related Early Childhood fields. On average, they have taught at our school for ten years, and several more than 20 years.
- **Our CORE school day:** We offer a *FOUR-hour* CORE morning school day for our Shtilim, Alim, and Anafim classes from 9am – 1pm (one hour longer than most morning programs), and a three-hour morning program for Shorashim, which runs from 9-noon.
- **Extended Care:** We offer before-school and after-school Extended Day Care starting at 7:30am, and lasting until 5:30pm for students of any age. EDC is multi-age and includes spaces for nappers and non-nappers.
- **Holiday Care:** During the Jewish holidays of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, we offer Yom Tov Holiday Care to accommodate family childcare needs.
- **Enrichment:** BACNS provides after-school enrichment Classes for children who begin the year age 3 and older in areas such as Gymnastics, Soccer, Sports, Art, and Music.
- **Potty-Training:** Children do not need to be potty trained to come to our school. We address potty training in tandem with you, when the child is ready, in a developmentally appropriate way.
- **Licensing:** BACNS is a California state-licensed facility and conforms to California state childcare facility standards and reporting requirements.
- **Parent Involvement:** We have an active Parent Committee and provide Parent Education opportunities, Parents Nights Out, and fun community building events throughout the year. We ask that families commit to donating 5 hours of their time, donating new or gently used materials, and/or making a financial donation to the school for purchase of new materials. We encourage our families to get involved with the school in whatever way works for them. In registration paperwork, we provide a list of possible ways to get involved and ask parents to let us know how they'd like to contribute to our school community.
- **Food:** Families provide lunch and we provide snack. We are a Kosher (which, in our case, translates to vegetarian), peanut-free facility. We provide families with an extensive list of kid-friendly foods to send to school, including almond-, soy-, sun-, and wow butter, as well as tuna fish and salmon, fruits and veggies, hummus, grains, breads, trail mix, etc...

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Thank you for your interest in our school! If you have any questions, call or e-mail us!

Sincerely,

Jenny Levine-Smith

Director, Beth Ami Community Nursery School

[NSDirector@BethAmiSR.org](mailto:NSDirector@BethAmiSR.org), (707) 360-3030

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