

Grandparents' Day at Barkai Yeshivah

On what would have been an ordinary Sunday morning, Barkai Yeshivah hosted early childhood students and their grandparents for a morning treat—Grandparents' Day 2014. The children were excited to spend quality time with their grandgrandparents and that feeling was very mutual.

Breakfast was served and conversations and laughter could be heard around the room. It was time dedicated to the relationship between a grandparent and grandchild that is so often missed during the usual noise of everyday life. There were smiling faces everywhere you looked.

As Rabbi David Leibtag, Barkai's Head of School, mentioned, "students who have a strong and healthy bond with their grandparents perform better in school."

Rabbi Shelomo Levi led the crowd in a few familiar pizmonim, which the children learn with him during the week and Rabbi Leibtag followed with a relevant Dvar Torah.



Then a video was shown in which each child was given the opportunity to answer the question—what is your favorite thing to do with your grandparents? Answers varied from "I love going to the playground with them," to "Baking and eating cookies with Grandma is the best." Hearing the memories that the children cherished most was very touching.

Everyone got involved during the sing-along, with Early Childhood Assistant

Director Heidi Stiel singing old familiar songs as well as a couple of new ones that the children taught their grandparents.

After the singing, the audience split up into individual classrooms. The adults walked around and saw where the learning actually happens. Children were excited to lead their grandparents on a tour of the classroom, and to tell them about their favorite toys, games and activities. The adults were amazed to see the enthusiasm and joy on the children's faces and thrilled to see their accomplishments first-hand.

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During a brief classroom activity, teachers introduced themselves, families shared time together and designed a personal picture frame in which a picture of them was placed. The special morning they spent together in Barkai Yeshivah will be remembered and treasured forever. □