

Dear Early Childhood Parent,

Mazel Tov on your child's upcoming birthday! If you choose to celebrate this occasion at school, we respectfully request that you follow the guidelines outlined in our school handbook.

Please note that birthdays may be marked with a treat for the class on Fridays only. No goodie bags or party favors of any kind may be distributed. Thank you for your cooperation.

From the Hebrew Academy Early Childhood Handbook:

Birthday parties can be scheduled with classroom teachers on FRIDAYS, in connection with the SHABBAT celebrations. While "goody bags," party favors and entertainment **are not allowed**, parents are welcome to provide festive paper goods, an edible treat (ice cream/cake or cupcakes from a kosher bakery) and drinks. **No home-baked items are permitted.** Special treats can be ordered through the school office for the entire class one week in advance. Please use the appropriate on-line form for in-school birthday party orders. (Please check with the teachers regarding possible issues with allergies or other dietary restrictions in the class.)

Birthday Parties Outside of School: In order to be considerate of all children, Hebrew Academy asks parents to select from one of the following guidelines when inviting their child's classmates:

- *Invite the entire grade or class;*
- *Invite all the boys or all the girls in the grade or class;*
- *Invite a very small number of friends from the grade or class.*
- *At these celebrations, please follow the kosher guidelines mentioned earlier.*

