The Sun Shines on…
Sophie Offen

This month we shine a light on Sophie Offen, our newest addition to the Quality of Life Department. Sophie joined the QOL team in June. She comes to us with great experience, having worked with special needs children while working at Yidei Chesed. She has a Bachelor’s Degree with a triple major in Psychology, English Literature and Judaic Studies. As the new Quality of Life team member, Sophie spends her mornings and afternoons in the Cuddle Club program, organizing children’s personal possessions and communicating with families about their preferences while providing updates on their children. When speaking with Sophie about her new work, she says, “I love the connection Sunshine builds with the families, as well as the children. It’s incredibly meaningful to interact with and meet all of the wonderful parents and work with them to create the best experience for their child.” Sophie has been enjoying her time getting to know the kids and is eager to get to know the families better. “I am so excited to meet everyone and am so happy to be working here. I look forward to getting to know the parents and their amazing kids at Sunshine!” remarked Sophie.

Please expect to hear from Sophie in the coming weeks and extend a warm Sunshine welcome to her.

Celebrating Our PreK Graduates

Sunshine was so excited to celebrate three Preschool students who formally graduated on June 18th. Our three young students are now on their way to Kindergarten in September! Their hard work and accomplishments for the past two years was celebrated with their teachers, Kathy Griffin, Nahlia Echavarria and Sharon Fitzmaurice via ZOOM. Sunshine staff were also present for the festivities. We are so proud of our strong, determined graduates.
What's New in Medicine: Telemedicine

There have been many adjustments made in the past few months due to COVID-19 and although some of the changes have been challenging, they have also brought new technology and improved services to the forefront. One example of this is the use of telemedicine. Sunshine has embraced telemedicine and found it to be extremely beneficial for the staff and children.

Telemedicine is the practice of caring for patients remotely via video calls. This practice of care enables outside doctors and specialists to consult with Sunshine’s medical team to provide the best treatment for our children.

While this service originally was implemented due to new COVID-19 precautions, Sunshine has found many advantages using telemedicine. One of the primary benefits is that parents are able to participate in the telemedicine visits. In addition, telemedicine provides the children with the comfort and convenience of staying at Sunshine with less disruption to their daily routine. It also saves time without having to transport the children to and from other facilities. A significant health benefit of telemedicine is that there is a reduced risk of our children or staff getting sick when going to appointments. As Dr. Savitt explains, “Telemedicine allows us to work with certain specialists. We are able to interact directly with them without sending our children out. We still can do the labs and then send the results over to the specialists. From there, the specialists can narrow down the issue, see what the problem is, and we can learn how to manage it. I would say that the most helpful aspect of using telemedicine is that it really minimizes exposure for our staff and children.”

Telemedicine has been a useful tool for our medical team to use for providing the best care and services for our strong children. Please discuss opportunities to schedule telemedicine appointments for your child, which include your participation.

夏日教育项目

由于纽约州卫生部门和教育部的持续限制，阳光儿童之家与我们的教育提供者合作，创建了一个混合式项目，以确保我们的儿童收到他们的教育服务。

夏季学校将在7月1日星期三到7月12日星期三开放。夏季课程将是一个较短的课程日，结合我们的Therapeutic Activities团队与BOCES和学前教育教师的两个半日课程。教师将提供面对面和虚拟课程，Therapeutic Activities将补充以户外活动、特别活动和其它形式的刺激性课程。Therapeutic Activities将继续在8月的课程中，按照夏季学校的时间表。