The Sun Shines on...
Chaya Rochel Benjamin

Chaya Rochel facilitates our highly-valued Quality of Life program and plays an essential role in the children’s daily lives. She is known for going above and beyond for Sunshine, our children and their families. From working closely with families to see that their wishes are being implemented, to organizing the Cuddles Club program and making sure that our children are always looking their best – Chaya Rochel does it all! Her primary responsibility is ensuring that our babies are provided with individual playtime, including mat play, swing time, nature walks and quiet times with lots of cuddles! During this challenging time, Chaya Rochel continues to provide excellent service to our families by capturing the children’s happy moments with photos, videos and virtual visits.

Chaya Rochel has been one constant in our changing milieu; she provides the same joy and comfort that brings delight to all the children. She explains, “Throughout this challenging time, the children still bring smiles to all of our faces and continue to make Sunshine the happy place that it is.” Thank you, Chaya Rochel for your dedication and for keeping our children happy, comfortable and styled!

Therapeutic Activities
Enjoying our Days the Sunshine Way

While we focus on health and safety first, we know the importance and value of providing the children with consistency in their routines, safety and love. It really takes a village to provide our children with all they need and deserve. We have proven to be “Sunshine Strong” in designing new programs to engage the children in fun, recreational activities. “There certainly are always silver linings, no matter what the situation. Our children just love to have fun, engage in creative play and spend time outdoors,” says Kym August, Sunshine’s Therapeutics Activities Supervisor. Kym, her team and Chaya Rochel continue to focus on providing the best quality of life for all the children. Each new day welcomes a celebration, special event or fun activity. Our commitment is to keep life at Sunshine as unchanged as possible.

For the older children, we have virtual school each day through our partnership with Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, as well as our own on-site Preschool Program. Our team has also been working closely with all the teachers and we stay connected by using creative web-based platforms, such as Schoology, Google classrooms and Zoom. The children really respond to seeing their teachers, hearing familiar voices and singing songs. The younger children continue to enjoy daily baby groups where they engage in mat play, music awareness and social interactions. As the weather continues to improve, the children are enjoying more time in our outdoor wonderland with all the nature to explore. “Walking outside in the fresh air has been so wonderful for the staff and the children. Listening to the birds sing, watching the fish in the pond and feeling the wind blow has been great,” says Kym.
Our Team has been quite busy working on our new construction project. Foundations are being poured, as you will see in these pictures, and slabs are being prepared for our pool, as well as the elevator shafts. Going forward, we will continue to keep you updated with pictures so that you can share the excitement as this project is transformed into our children’s new home!

VISITATION

As we are beginning to see some loosening of the NYS restrictions around COVID-19, we want to share an update with you regarding our current status and our future thinking about visitation. At Sunshine we remain committed to protecting the health and well-being of your children, our families, and our staff. We are so appreciative of the cooperation from all of our families who, despite their personal hardship in not seeing their children, understand the critical nature of this pandemic. It is our hope that in the weeks to come we will have a plan to allow limited visitation for well parents/guardians. Initially, we foresee visits being pre-scheduled with screening and hope to have more details on what this may look like as restrictions may ease. You have our commitment to provide timely communication with you regarding any changes to our visitation policy and all matters impacting families.