



The Shefa School is delighted to host
Tools for Success: Meeting the Needs of all Learners

Dates: Tuesday July 23 – Thursday July 25, 2019

Time: 9:00am-2:30pm

Location: The Shefa School, 40 East 29th Street, New York, NY 10016

Fee (includes Kosher lunch): \$600

[For online registration, please click here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rebecca Ritter at rebecca.ritter@shefaschool.org.

Required minimum of 2 participants from each school/institution.

*A limited travel stipend is available for groups of 3 or more coming from out of state

Administrators and General Studies Teachers from New York State nonpublic schools are eligible to receive substantial NYS funding, **reducing the workshop fee to \$100. This opportunity is made in collaboration with The Jewish Education Project. (Please note that funding will not cover the Judaic Studies track, described below.)



Course Description

This three-day immersive experience will offer participants a deep dive into differentiating instruction for students with learning challenges. The program is designed for K-8 educators looking to gain concrete tools and skills for designing and delivering instruction to a range of learners. The workshop is also appropriate for administrators who wish to explore program structures and models of support to address the challenges of working with diverse populations.

Join us for this unique opportunity to hear from the Shefa team about research-based strategies that have proven effective at the Shefa School for students with language-based learning disabilities and that can be implemented into any school setting to transform the way students learn.

Each day will begin with a plenary session for all participants followed by breakout conversations to provide opportunity for reflection, application, and further inquiry into particular topics. Breakout sessions may be grouped by school role, school affiliation, or subject area. In the afternoons, participants will join one of three tracks. The following subject-specific modules will take place during each afternoon:

A. Language and Literacy

This track is designed for teachers of all subjects that involve reading and writing. Topics will include: the explicit teaching of reading comprehension, strategies for integrating language learning in the classroom, and a structured approach to teaching vocabulary. Resources, templates, and book lists will be provided.

B. Teaching of Multisensory Mathematics

This track will provide concrete strategies for making math accessible to all learners. Developed in partnership with language and math specialist Marilyn Zecher, Shefa's math program applies Orton-Gillingham multisensory instructional strategies to mathematics. Learn effective methods for teaching math concepts and explicit instructional language to students with language-based learning needs. Concepts from K-8 will be modeled with special emphasis on numeracy, place value, basic operations, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals.

C. Judaic Studies and Hebrew Instruction

This track is designed for teachers of Judaic Studies and/or Hebrew language. Topics will include: integrating language strategies in Judaic Studies, making Biblical texts accessible to students who struggle with language and literacy, and teaching Hebrew language to students with dyslexia and language challenges.

At the end of each day, Shefa administrators will have availability to meet with individual school-based cohorts to provide strategic consultation.

Please indicate interest for this on the registration form and a member of the Shefa team will contact you to learn more about your needs and area of focus.

About Shefa:

The Shefa School is a Jewish community day school in Manhattan serving students in grades 1-8 who benefit from a specialized educational environment in order to develop their strengths while addressing their learning challenges. We specifically serve students with language-based learning disabilities who have not yet reached their potential levels of success in traditional classroom settings. Shefa is a pluralistic community school serving families across the range of Jewish involvement and observance.

[For online registration, please click here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rebecca Ritter at rebecca.ritter@shefaschool.org.

Preliminary Schedule

Tuesday July 23

8:45-9:00: Check-in/registration

9:00-9:15: Welcome and orientation

9:15-10:45: Plenary session

Language-Based Learning Disabilities: Implications for Classroom Practice

Language mediates the world around us. In this session we will explore the characteristics of learning disabilities with a focus on language-based learning disabilities, how they manifest themselves in the classroom, and how to structure language-based learning for students who struggle. We will focus on simple and effective best practices for supporting these students in any classroom.

10:45-11:00: Break/refreshments

11:00-12:00: Breakout conversations

- 12:00-12:30:** Lunch provided
- 12:30-2:30:** Subject-specific tracks:
Language and Literacy
Teaching of Multisensory Mathematics
Judaic Studies and Hebrew Instruction
- 2:45-4:00:** Customized school consultation with Shefa team (optional)
advanced registration required – no additional fee

Wednesday July 24

- 8:45-9:00:** Check-in/registration
- 9:00-10:45:** Plenary session
Understanding and Instructing Students with ADHD
This session will explore a research-based understanding of the nature of ADHD that explains many of the challenges and strengths that come with having attentional and executive functioning struggles. Using that understanding as a guide, we will present practical techniques for managing students' attention and impulsivity within the classroom as well as implications for school-wide policy.
- 10:45-11:00:** Break/refreshments
- 11:00-12:00:** Breakout conversations
- 12:00-12:30:** Lunch provided
- 12:30-2:30:** Subject-specific tracks
Language and Literacy
Teaching of Multisensory Mathematics
Judaic Studies and Hebrew Instruction
- 2:45-4:00:** Customized school consultation with Shefa team (optional)
advanced registration required – no additional fee

Thursday July 25

- 8:45-9:00:** Check-in/registration
- 9:00-10:45:** Plenary session
Developing Executive Functioning and Study Skills
This session will provide an overview of the components of executive function as well as practical strategies for providing instruction to students with executive functioning weaknesses. We will explore the importance of structured classrooms, the explicit teaching of

executive function-related skills, and the fostering of student meta-cognition and self-advocacy. Emphasis will be placed on techniques used at Shefa for teaching study skills, including: studying for and taking tests, note-taking, research, time-management, and materials organization.

- 10:45-11:00:** Break/refreshments
- 11:00-12:00:** Breakout conversations
- 12:00-12:30:** Lunch provided
- 12:30-2:30:** Subject-specific tracks
Language and Literacy
Teaching of Multisensory Mathematics
Judaic Studies and Hebrew Instruction
- 2:45-4:00:** Customized school consultation with Shefa team (optional)
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Presenter Bios

Cara Jordan is the Middle School Language Arts & Writing Coordinator and a founding lead teacher at the Shefa School. Cara graduated with her B.A. in English from the University of Michigan and completed her Masters in Childhood Regular and Special Education and Literacy from Manhattanville College. Prior to joining Shefa, she was a Language Arts and Writing teacher at the Windward School in White Plains. With over 10 years of teaching experience, Cara collaborates with and mentors the Language Arts and Writing teachers as well as creates curriculum with a focus on integrating the Language Arts and Writing program throughout content areas. She presents professional development workshops in reading, vocabulary and strategies for writing and study skills. Cara has extensive experience with *The Hochman Method* and *Preventing Academic Failure (PAF)* and provides coaching to teachers in their implementation of the programs.

Rabbi Dov Lerea has been a professional educator for the past 35 years. Prior to joining Shefa as the founding Head of Judaic Studies, he was the Dean and Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. Rabbi Dov served for many years as the Dean of Judaic Studies of the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York and as the Director of Education at Camp Yavneh in Northwood, New Hampshire. He has also served as the Director of Secondary Education at Boston Hebrew College, a faculty member at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, and a faculty member for the Wexner Heritage Foundation. He also served as the Director of KIVUNIM, an innovative gap-year program based in Jerusalem. Rabbi Dov has an A.B. from Brown University in Religious Studies, an M.A. and Rabbinic degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary, a Rabbinic degree from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University, an M.A. in Learning and Teaching from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and an Ed.D. from the Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at JTS.

Linda Maleh is a founding lead teacher and the Lower School Math Coordinator at Shefa. Prior to joining Shefa when it opened in 2014, she taught at the Mary McDowell Friends School in Brooklyn. Linda has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and English from Hunter College and a Master of Science in Childhood General and Special Education from Bank Street College of Education. Linda has spent the past five years implementing Marilyn Zecher's Multisensory Math program at Shefa and

has presented with Ms. Zecher at the IDA conference. At Shefa, Linda's responsibilities include coaching the lower school math teachers, delivering training and professional development for faculty, and overseeing math curriculum development and assessment.

Rebecca Ritter is the Head of Academics at the Shefa School. Rebecca designed the school's academic program in its inception, and now collaborates to support the program's growth and further development. Rebecca has taught multiple grade levels at a low-income NYC public school, where her classroom was the school's pilot inclusion classroom, serving as a model for meeting the needs of a diverse range of learners within a single class. She has worked in both public and private schools, mentoring and coaching teachers and overseeing the development of school-wide curriculum maps. Rebecca has conducted and presented research on teachers' experiences of professional growth and has served as a co-instructor in the school leadership graduate program at Bank Street College. Rebecca holds a B.A. from Harvard College and a Masters Degree in School Leadership from Bank Street College, as well as NYS certification as a School Building Leader (SBL).

Shulamit Roth, MS CCC-SLP, is an ASHA-certified language and speech pathologist at the Shefa School. She received her BA from Stern College for Women and an MS from Brooklyn College in Speech and Language Pathology. With over 10 years of experience in serving students with language based learning disabilities, Shulamit began her career as a clinician at the Soifer Center for Learning and Child Development in White Plains, NY. After working in private practice, she served as a language and literacy specialist in public and private schools in both Boston and New Jersey, including Brookline Public Schools, The Carroll School, the Maimonides School, and Yeshivat Noam. In transitioning to the school setting, Shulamit sought to carry over her clinical experience to help teachers understand their students' learning profiles and infuse their instruction with language supportive strategies. In this regard, she consulted with teachers to modify and develop curriculum to best reach all types of learners. Her passion for teaching Jewish students with language-based learning disabilities brought her to the Shefa School, where she teaches language arts, writing, Judaic Studies, and small language enrichment groups, and develops Judaic Studies curriculum and instructional approaches that can be utilized in Jewish Day Schools for all learners.

Ilana Ruskay-Kidd is the Founder and Head of the Shefa School. Before founding Shefa in 2014, she served as the Director of The Saul and Carole Zabar Nursery School at the JCC in Manhattan. Prior to being named to this position in 2006, Ilana worked at the JCC as Director of Young Families and then as Senior Director of Family Life, supervising programs serving families and children from birth to eighteen years old. Ilana began her teaching career at the Central Park East school in Harlem and went on to become a founding teacher at the Ella Baker School, an alternative public school in Manhattan. She then worked as an Early Childhood Curriculum Consultant for the Children's Aid Society where she developed curricula with directors and teachers in day care, Head Start and private nursery school programs throughout the city. Ilana received her B.A. from Harvard College and a Master's Degree in Education from Bank Street College. Ilana was a recipient of the Covenant Award in 2016.

Dr. Naomi Schimmel is the Head of Lower School at the Shefa School. In this capacity she oversees the Lower School program, working closely with teachers, students, and parents. Naomi has been both a classroom teacher and a learning specialist, and in her various roles she has provided differentiated instruction, implemented assessment models, and designed curriculum. She has supported teachers in enhancing their literacy instruction, presented workshops on instruction and literacy, and taught graduate courses at Fordham University. Prior to joining Shefa, she worked at the Churchill School, Maret School in Washington, DC, and Riverdale Country School. Naomi received her B.A. in Psychology from the George Washington University and her Master's Degree in

Special Education from Hunter College. She earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Teaching from Fordham University.

Dr. Yoni Schwab is the Assistant Head of the Shefa School. A clinical psychologist, Yoni served as the Psychologist at The Windward School and on the faculty of the Windward Teacher Training Institute. He is an Adjunct Clinical Supervisor at Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University and has had successful private clinical practices in Riverdale and Scarsdale. Yoni conducts research, consults, and lectures extensively on social-emotional learning, progressive behavior management, and raising the achievement of students with behavioral and learning challenges. He holds B.A.'s from both Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned his doctorate in clinical psychology at Rutgers University. He also trained at the NYU Child Study Center in the treatment of ADHD and disruptive behavior and at the Institute for Behavior Therapy. Yoni is Wexner Foundation Field Fellow.

Dr. Roberta Solar is the Head of Middle School and Outplacement at the Shefa School. Prior to joining Shefa, Roberta served as Assistant Head of School at the Ramaz School and Head of the Lower School at the Windward School in White Plains. Prior to that, Roberta worked at the Dwight-Englewood School in various administrative roles in the lower and middle schools. She created the resource room in the P'TACH program at Yeshiva University High School for Girls, and was an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Roberta has mentored and developed countless special educators throughout her career and has been at the forefront of developing curricula and instructional approaches to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities. Roberta holds a doctorate in special education, a master's in instructional practice in special education, and a master's in special education, all from Teachers College.

Angie Swenson is the Hebrew Language Coordinator at the Shefa School. Angie pioneered Shefa's multisensory Hebrew reading program and continues to work to identify best practices in teaching Hebrew to students with language based learning disabilities and ensure that each of students feels confident in his/her Hebrew language skills. At Shefa Angie develops curriculum, coaches teachers, and works with small groups of students. She has presented on multisensory Hebrew reading instruction and on the integration of Hebrew language with Shefa's approach to writing and language instruction. Prior to joining Shefa, Angie was a classroom teacher at an independent special education school where she was trained in Orton-Gillingham. She also served as a Hebrew language learning specialist at the Heschel School. Angie received her B.A. from Cornell University and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Hunter College. She is currently enrolled in a Masters Degree program in School Leadership at Bank Street College.

Kristen Vieregg, M.S., CCC-SLP is a New York State and ASHA certified speech-language pathologist. After graduating from MGH-Institute of Health Professions in 2013 with a concentration in literacy, she began working at a private practice in Westchester, New York, where she conducted comprehensive speech and language evaluations and provided cognitive-linguistic therapy to children and young adults. Before joining the Shefa School, Kristen worked as a speech-language pathologist in a New York City independent school for students with significant language needs. Kristen is trained and has extensive experience in *The Hochman Method* and *Preventing Academic Failure (PAF)*, and has presented at *Everyone Reading: Conference on Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities*. In her capacity as Shefa's Lower School Speech-Language Pathologist and Writing Coordinator, Kristen develops and modifies writing curriculum as well as supports teachers and speech-language pathologists in instruction.