Top Ten Reasons
Parents Choose Gan Aliya[1]

GAN ALIYA
JEWISH MONTESSORI IN MANHATTAN
FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 3-6

1. **Learning is Highly Individualized for Each Student**
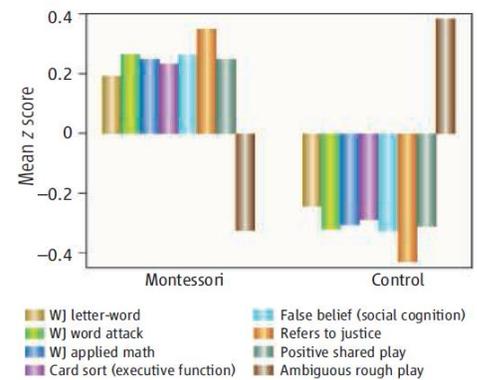
   Montessori education recognizes that children learn in different ways, and accommodates all learning styles. Students are free to learn at their own pace, each advancing through the curriculum as they are ready, guided by the teacher and an individualized learning plan that leverages their strengths. Gan Aliya expands this personalized approach to understanding and building the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

2. **Children Develop a Love of Torah and Mitzvot**

   Our curriculum integrates Torah and secular subjects by highlighting their interconnectedness and mutual relevance. The curriculum spans English, Math, Science, Social Skills, Daily Living Skills, Music, Physical Education as well as Hebrew, Parasha, Character Refinement, Prayer, Taryag Mitzvot, and Jewish History.

3. **Montessori More Effective at Developing Math, Literacy, and Social Skills**

   Research published in the peer-reviewed journal *Science*[2] examined the abilities of children randomly assigned to Montessori or conventional schooling. Montessori students were significantly better prepared for elementary school reading and math; they tested better on "executive function," an indicator of future school and life success; they displayed better social and behavioral abilities; and on the playground they were much more likely to engage in emotionally positive play with peers, and less likely to engage in rough play.

WJ letter-word | False belief (social cognition)
WJ word attack | Refers to justice
WJ applied math | Positive shared play
Card sort (executive function) | Ambiguous rough play

4. **Students feel part of a close, caring community**.

   Gan Aliya's single multi-age classroom—from ages 3 to 6—re-creates a family structure. Older students enjoy stature as mentors and role models; younger children feel supported and gain confidence about the challenges ahead. Teachers model respect, loving kindness, and a belief in peaceful conflict resolution.

5. **Students become active seekers of knowledge.**

   Gan Aliya offers a child-centered learning environment where teachers assist students with discovering their true potential through developmentally appropriate challenges within the curriculum expectations set by the teachers. Seeing their own successes, children develop a tremendous love of learning and self-motivation.

6. **Self-correction and self-assessment are an integral part of the Gan Aliya classroom approach**.

   Students learn to look critically at their work, and become adept at recognizing, correcting, and learning from their errors.

7. **Classroom Environment Fosters Self-Regulation**

   Children develop orderliness, coordination, concentration, and independence. Classroom design, materials, and daily routines support the child's emerging self-regulation–the ability to educate oneself, and to think about what one is learning.

8. **Learning Method Inspires Creativity**

   Gan Aliya students choose activities and work on their own terms. They experience the joy of the work, rather than the focusing only on the end result, which allows them to focus more on process–a natural path to creativity.

9. **Curriculum Focuses on Hands-On Learning**

   Gan Aliya emphasizes active engagement in concrete educational challenges rather than passive conventional lecturing.

10. **Highly Trained Staff**

    Led by Rabbi Jonathan Rietti, MSEd and Educational Director Dr. Julianne Costa OTR/L, PT, DPT, ScD, Gan Aliya's teachers possess Montessori early childhood education certifications and decades of collective preschool experience.

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[1] Adapted in part from http://amshq.org/Montessori-Education/Introduction-to-Montessori/Benefits-of-Montessori; http://www.education.com/magazine/article/10-benefits-montessori-preschool/ ; and http://fms.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Benefits-of-Montessori.pdf

[2] http://www.montessori-science.org/Science_Evaluating_Montessori_Education_Lillard.pdf