



## INSIDE YvY Parent Newsletter

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# **News Briefs**

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Children at YvY's Staten Island Forest Hill Road Center, exchange bills. Cash register pretend play brings money math to life!





## Congratulations to the Newly Appointed Office of Head Start Director

This winter, Yasmina Vinci, NHSA Executive Director, shared the announcement of the new director of the Office of Head Start, Dr. Bernadine Futrell. "Dr. Futrell, herself a Head Start graduate and a testament to the strong foundation the program lays for success in school and life, is a mission-driven, innovative leader and we look forward to working with her to continue taking Head Start to new heights."

Dr. Bernadine Futrell, who jump-started her distinguished career as an assistant Head Start teacher in Richmond, Virginia, has come full-circle and will now lead programs as they launch new generations of children into successful lives.

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Every Tuesday at 11:30am, NHSA features a high-energy engaging music and movement program which is available for all Head Start and Early Head Start programs and families at https://www.nhsa.org/our-work/current-initiatives/nhsa-inthe-classroom.



Dr. Bernadine Futrell, OHS Director

Yeled VYalda joins the Head Start community in expressing our gratitude to Ann Linehan for her work on behalf of our nation's children and families. After 15+ years with the Office of Head Start, and 10 as Deputy Director, Annis embarking on her next chapter in life: a welldeserved retirement.

Best wishes and Good Luck, Ann!





## Head Start/Early Head Start News

With the arrival of summer, we dare to breathe a sigh of relief as we look forward to a new school year which offers an exciting opportunity for a fresh start and new beginnings.

#### HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

This September, YvY is starting up an Early Head Start Lakewood expansion program.

In an exciting initiative to better service the parents in our Head Start programs who have relocated to Lakewood, YVY applied for an EHS grant application. A lot of work went into preparing a competitive application and to our great joy, we were awarded the grant we had applied for. We will be partnering with existing childcare programs in Lakewood, New Jersey; 14 Early Head Start classrooms will be distributed between the sites to service children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old, including services for some pregnant moms. Heni Mozes has been hired as the Regional Director for the new program and, with the guidance of Head Start Directors, she is hard at work hiring staff and ensuring a proper setup for the new classrooms.

YVY conducted a robust Self-Assessment this spring, as is done annually. Using checklists and observations forms as reflective supervision tools, YVY staff and parents have turned a critical eye on the agency with the intent of improving areas of weakness. The focus of the Program Improvement Plan included accomplishments of the past year and goals for the coming year.

Among the many accomplishments this year: The fiscal department provided extra fiscal support to help all the Head Start sites operate during Covid. This included providing guidance on utilizing the extra funds granted through the Covid grants and approving additional requests necessary to operate sites successfully.

All classrooms used Covid enhancement funds to enrich programming and to furnish classrooms with new and updated materials. Yoga instruction, a drive-through zoo, a carnival ride and a gala concert with superstar Uncle Moishy were among some of the exciting goings-on at YVY sites.





Head Start Leadership Team visits Lakewood Expansion Partner Sites



Bashie Teitelbaum, ERSEA specialist, trains Lakewood expansion staff



(L-R) Naomi Auerbach, Heni Mozes, Nathan Salomon



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Security cameras were installed on the perimeter of one site along with a high-tech security system. Approvals were granted fora new indoor gym, a new fire alarm system, new equipment and furnishings for offices and classrooms.

Parent Surveys are now used to get a better understanding of parent satisfaction in the HS program and what their needs are. Please make sure to complete any surveys received from your child's center.

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As the need arose for parents to learn more about healthy eating habits due to Covid-19, a **Health and Wellness Initiative** was coordinated by Libby Chein, YVY's Parent Family Community Engagement Coordinator. All families received a "Salad Time" cookbook, along with a cutting board, peeler, a pen, measuring cup and measuring spoon and were encouraged to involve their children in healthy food preparation. Literature about health and wellness was shared with parents throughout the year.



Delighted parents share feedback and pictures of YvY's Health Eating Initiative Project



#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent Involvement enhances parenting skills, knowledge, and understanding of the educational and developmental needs and activities of children. Participation by Head Start parents is crucial to the success of the children and program.





#### **PROJECT REACH HEAD START**

Project REACH had the pleasure of directly benefitting families this year with the enhancement funds and COVID grants. At the beginning of the year, each child was provided with a backpack loaded with personal supplies and equipment to reduce cross-contamination between our children. Next, we provided each Home Instructor with upgraded toys and open-ended art supplies for each caseload. On a program level we enhanced our supplies closet with World Percussion Instruments and Costumes. In our office, we invested in a fully stocked supply of cutting dies and a die cutting machine and stencil maker as a new teacher's resource. Our final socializations for this year, the annual trip to the Jewish Children's Museum and the 'Coffee Break' luncheon were our best-attended events ever! Next year we hope to renovate our Socialization space with a life-like kitchen center, puppet theater and a stage for performances. Looking forward to enjoying all of these valuable enhancements with staff and families of Project REACH as we head into the 2021-22 preschool year.



Through play, children learn about the world and themselves.

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

The Yeled Health and Safety team organized a virtual Health Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting in May to talk about Covid-19 and the school year. An informative presentation on the safety and efficacy of the Covid vaccination was given by Dr. Tara. Stein of the NYC DOH. Also discussed was the RSV increase in the community, signs and symptoms to look out for and how to keep families safe. Attendees at the meeting, besides for YvY Health Coordinators and staff, included Dr. Jeffrey Teitelbaum, Medical Director of Ezra Medical Center, Alyssa Masor, Community Liaison of NYC DOH's Division of Disease Control, Representatives from other local Head Start sites and more.

As the year comes to a close, the Nurses at Yeled have been very busy preparing the sites for the upcoming school year by training all staff members in important health and safety classes such as Infection Control and Emergency Preparedness among others. As rules and regulations regarding Covid restrictions continue to change, we aim to be in as much communication as needed with all staff and families so that when we meet again next year, we will maintain compliance and have a safe experience for the children and staff. Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Summer!



HAC members and guests collaborate virtually



#### NUTRITION SERVICES

YvY programs are getting back to basics as we prepare for taking in-person learning to the next level. In conjunction with both Health and Nutrition Services, we have updated our food allergy policy to meet the NYCDOH criteria as well as Head Start performance standards. We utilized our virtual training opportunities to educate our staff with best practices on food allergy safety in the classroom and meal service for all ages. We follow the guidance provided by the USDA on how to effectively provide nutritionally complete credible meals that are food allergy safe. In preparation for the upcoming school year, all sites will be in contact with both families and our classroom staff will be using our updated food allergy protocols and forms to provide a supportive classroom environment to all our allergic children.

## **Research Institute**

The grant for the program Research Experience for Undergraduates 'Intersection of Linguistics, Language & Culture' that prepares selected students from different higher education institutions in the NY tristate area to work with culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and led by YVY Research Institute Director Dr. Barriere has been renewed for three years. The funding comes from both the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) ASSURE program (that co-funds fewer than 30 such programs across the US). A complementary grant will also enable the publication of the student projects that focus on the linguistic diversity of New York. The work of NSF-REU ILLC 2019 fellow Chana Karp on the bilingual development of children enrolled in YVY Head Start programs was presented at the 'International Association of Child Language Conference' in July. Dr. Lieberman, whose doctoral dissertation project involved the participation of children enrolled at YVY, and Dr. Barriere have co-authored an article on 'Emotion Valence for Social Communication During Story Retells' that will be published in the 'Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups'.

## Marketplace



V NYS Marketplace Navigation

**Multilingual Research Institute** 

Market place navigators are back in office full time! The Dept. of Health is still allowing applications to be processed over the phone; please call the Marketplace main line at 718-686-2188 to schedule an appointment. Special enrollment period for Qualified Health Plans has been extended until December 31. Reminder: Enrollment for Medicaid and essential plans is open all year round. As of September, YVY Marketplace will have a full-time navigator working out of Saphardic Bikur Holim located at 425 Kings Highway.



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# YVY BROOKLYN













All children are capable of learning, achieving and making developmental progress.

YvY serves all children regardless of economic, linguistic, and cultural differences or physical, learning, and emotional challenges. Children learn in the context of interactions and relationships with family members, caregivers, teachers, and other children in their immediate environment and in their community.

Dearest 444 We Want to Lank Ju for all the wonderful Services you provide!

Appropriate and reasonable supports and accommodations, including home language, trauma, and behavior supports are provided to empower all children to succeed.





This spring, Silver Lake Head Start, Staten Island, held a Family Engagement "What's your Superpower?" celebration to commemorate National Superhero Day. The theme of the day was to celebrate the staff and to call attention to everyone's positive qualities.

Janine Geritano, the Education Director, surprised staff by preparing customized shirts and a motivational pep talk. Children came to school dressed in capes made at home with their families. The entire staff welcomed the children into the building accompanied with music, cheering and having their Superhero names called out loud. Family members took pictures of their children as they walked through the walkway filled with Superhero decorations. It was an uplifting event to spark school spirit and family engagement.









"This May marks five years since Jess and I have taken on the roles of Ed Director and Center Coordinator. Throughout those 5 years we have faced many unique challenges with fear of eminent doom. For each challenge we united with the heroes of Silver Lake to help see us through. Together with the fierce heroes we arose to the challenges ahead fighting evil villains, viruses & storms with strength, resilience and determination.

Today is a day to celebrate our heroes. Each Silver Lake hero possesses their own unique superpower. These powers make them unlike any other school staff in the world. So, thank you to the heroes of Silver Lake for all you do and face each day. We are grateful for you and hope you enjoy your day! Now let's suit up for our day! "













#### Yeled VYalda WIC Farragut Road may be closed temporarily, but Yeled VYalda WIC Boro Park is open and remotely servicing all participants (including our Farragut Road participants). Yeled VYalda WIC has been open, non-stop, throughout the pandemic and we look forward to continue serving our

VYalda WIC has been open, non-stop, throughout the pandemic and we look forward to continue serving our clientele.

Until September 30, 2021, NYS WIC is offering eligible WIC participants an additional \$35 to be spent on WIC fruits and vegetables! Eligible participants will receive the benefits on their eWIC card.

Farmers markets are open, and Yeled VYalda WIC is issuing farmers market checks to all interested WIC families! Checks can be used at any farmers market in New York State through November 2021. All questions can be directed to our main number at 718-686-3799.

Participants can submit required documents via Fax: 718-686-2196 or Email: WIC@yeled.org

## Governance

WIC

The YvY Policy Council continued its active role in the decision-making process of the HS/EHS program. Meetings were held in central office several times throughout the year with members being updated on all aspects of the program. Monthly reports are shared with the PC and training is ongoing to assist the members in making informed decisions in the direction of the HS program. The combined force of the Board of Directors and the Policy Council, along with management staff, are a powerful force that provides leadership and strategic direction for the organization. YvY wishes to thank the Policy Council and Board members which have helped YVY run smoothly this past year.

## Special Ed & Related Services

Yeled v'Yalda continues to lead in the field of Special Education. The Supervision and Professional Development Programs have forged their own paths to best meet the needs of the providers and children.

Our intensive supervision program, led by a dedicated team of supervisors across all SPED disciplines, has raised the bar on supervision of services. Through focused provider mentorship and accountability, meticulous curriculum planning and in-person session observations, we have built our one-of-a-kind supervision program.

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# **Department News**





Masks can't hide the smiles from

YVY's devoted PC members!



Direct feedback is provided, supporting therapists to provide child-focused therapy and achieve more in their sessions.

Similarly, our Professional Development Department has created multiple opportunities for staff to continue their professional education, by presenting workshops, webinars, and teleconferences featuring leaders in each field, with the goal of providing the most advanced and applicable research-based intervention in each service sector.

This Spring, both departments partnered to produce a full day Symposium for an initial group of special ed providers, school reps, and local principals. Our Supervision Leaders worked tirelessly to ensure that every moment spent at the training would have



practical application in the classroom. The featured speaker was the famed Rabbi Avigdor Spitzer, who presented on the topic of "Teaching Text-Based Comprehension Skills". This event was a resounding success and laid the groundwork for future events of this caliber. The response we received further emboldens us to continue in our progressive approach of providing educational and mentorship options for our providers with the intent of maximizing our students' potential through higher level services.

#### ABA INSURANCE

The ABA Insurance program has experienced another super successful year! With summer schedules up and running, our children are fully supported by their BCBAs and paraprofessionals in their summer settings. Each individual child is serviced with their tailor-made ABA program geared to address their specific behavior and social emotional needs. Yeled VYalda continues to boast top notch providers in the field, who oversee each child in their entirety and consistently coordinate care with all those involved in the child's wellbeing. Furthermore, we are constantly available to assist our clients with the unlimited customer service we are famous for! Looking forward to continued success for "our" children!

#### TITLE I

The Title I program continues to expand with new and exciting initiatives that address the needs of all parents. Yeled v'Yalda has begun offering Parent Engagement services in Crown Heights. We provide neighborhood parents with Title I eligible children both in-person and virtual options of parent workshops, counseling, and mentoring services. We look forward to expanding these services to the Boro Park community. In addition, Yeled v'Yalda is currently providing professional development and coaching for teachers and principals. Lastly, Yeled v'Yalda is proud to have been awarded the Title IV / CARES contract that addresses students' needs in the academic, behavior and parental support domains. Exciting components under this contract include leadership development, academic skill enhancement, tutoring and homework assistance, study and test taking skills, thematic projects, counseling, mentoring, conflict resolution, recreation / sports, substance abuse, family support, and family literacy. Yeled v'Yalda's dedicated team of professionals is ready to guide schools on how to support their students' academic and social-emotional success.



#### **HEALTH HOME**

Health Home Care Management, YvY's newest program, is up and running. Through the Health Home program, Yeled v'Yalda assigns a care manager who provides assistance and support by collaborating with parents to increase access to services and resources, and by helping families develop an all-encompassing and well-organized plan of care.

In order to be eligible for Health Home services, the individual must be enrolled in Medicaid and must have: Two or more chronic conditions (e.g. Asthma, Diabetes, motor delay) or One single qualifying chronic condition: HIV/AIDS or, Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or Complex Trauma. Some of the children who qualify for Care Management, may also be eligible for Home Community Based Services (HCBS)/Waiver Services such as respite and Community Self-Advocacy Training and Support.

To refer a child or to apply for a Care Manager or HCBS position, please reach out to TLevi@yeled.org or call 718-686-2304.

## **YvY Fitness**



The Yeled VYalda Fitness Center reopened in gradual stages this past year, as allowed by the NYC DOH guidelines; first the gym room, followed by the pool and finally the steam room and sauna. Classes have started up again and, as time goes on, additional classes will be added to the schedule. The demand for swim instruction always goes up in the spring and summer, and fortunately the Fitness Center was able to certify seven new WSIs just in time. Members are happy to be back resuming their fitness routines among old and new friends. The Fitness Center restarted the free membership plan for Head Start/ Early HS parents, and although the plan is suspended in the summer, it will restart in the fall. Parents should inquire at their child's school for more information. The Fitness Center can be reached at 718-686-3788 or by emailing fitness@yeled.org.



Virtual DOH inspection of the gym





Newly certified American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors





#### Yeled v'Yalda **Early Childhood Center, Inc.**

1312 38th Street Brooklyn, Ny 11218

**CEO**, Chief Executive Officer Solomon Igel COO, Chief Operating Officer Zvi Pinter

**Director of Operations** Martin Schwartz

CFO, Chief Financial Officer Rebecca Gutman, CPA

Director of Compliance & Legal Affairs Ruth Ackerman, Esg.

> **Director, Federal Programs** Wayne Goldberg, MA, MPA

**Executive Director** Naomi Auerbach, MsEd Deputy Director, HS/EHS/UPK

Nathan Salomon, MA **Director, Special Services** 

R. Chaim Sanzer, MaEd, SAS **Director, Disabilities Program** 

Mina Sputz, MS, SAS

Director, Human Resources Gitty Lichtenstein, MsEd

Comptroller and Budget Officer Jonas Friedman, CPA

**Director, Information Technology** Samuel Feferkorn

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Director, Professional Development, & Training Henny Krasnianski, MS, SpEd

**Director, Infant/Toddler Services** Daniella Dvash-Rubin, MS

Director Title I/IIa/III/IV Programs Eti Moskovits, MsEd

**Director, Autistic & Pervasive Developmental Delay Services** Kreindy Myers, MsEd

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**Director, Fitness & Rehabilitation** Chaim Sabel

> Health Services Coordinator Malky Rosin, RN, BSN

Director of Mental Health. Social & Family Services Alyssa Alexander, LCSW

Director, Parent, Family & **Community Engagement** Libby Chein, BA, MS, SpEd **Director, Nutrition Services** Dina Lipkind, MS, RD, CDN

**INSIDE YVY Parent Newsletter** 

Professional Development Trainings at Yeled v'Yalda continue to promote personal and professional growth for YVY employees and therapists.

**Comprehensive Kriah** Gitty Rosenfeld, MS Ed

Course

..... PACE Training Racheli Berkowitz, YVY Pendency Supervisor ..... Sleep Assessment & Interventions Naomi Diamond, MA. **BCBA, LBA** 

#### ..... Treating the Impulsive

Child Zahava Deutsch, OTR/L

..... Accessing & Harnessing **Creativity to Enhance** Productivity

Rabbi Tani Prero, M. Ed .....

**Teaching Text Based** Comprehension Skills Rabbi Avigdor Spitzer

PLAY: Children with ASD Devora Ackerman, MsEd. **BCBA**, LBA

..... Social Awareness Series Part II

Shuli Wolman, Social Skills & Relationship Coach

The Hierarchy of English Reading Skills & Practical Strategies for Success Rachelli Berkowitz, SPED Supervisor

A Behavior Analysis of Theory of Mind: Theoretical & Applied Implications (livestream) Francesca degli Espinosa, Ph.D, BCBA-D, CPsychol

..... Start the School Day Ready to Learn Dana Ledereich, MA OT/L

Work Well 2021 -The Online Virtual Wellness Program Beth Pollack MFA. Christine Walchuk BS. MsEd, Carrie Gallagher BA, Coordinated by YvY's HR Department .....

Math & Problem Solving Training (virtual) Kreindy Itzkowitz, MS, BCBA & Devory Zeigerman, MsEd

Unlocking the Potential:

Fostering Resilience in Children (livestream) Perri Hecht, MS-CCC-SLP/A Cert. AVT, LSLS &

Mindy Rosenthal MS, BCBA

Stepping into Optimal Health: Integrating Mind, Body & Soul

Yael Gottehrer, CPT, MsEd

Professional **Development Day for Crown Heights Providers** Mr. Pinny Nagel, Deena Markovits, Naomi Diamond & Rabbi Dovid Dinerman ..... Tuesday Talks Series for **HS Family Workers** Head Start Support Staff ..... **CLASS** Certification for **Education Directors** ..... **CDA** Certification for Assistant Teachers .....

UPCOMING: FI & DOF **Providers' Orientation &** ABA Orientation for PY 2021-2022 on September 1st, 2021



**CDA** Training



**CPR** Training

Family Workers Tuesday Talks

Comprehension Skills Training





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# **Parent Magazine**

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## Backpack Connection Series

#### **About this Series**

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

#### **The Pyramid Model**



The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional compe-

tence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit *ChallengingBehavior.org*.

#### **More Information**

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, *ChallengingBehavior.org*.



ChallengingBehavior.org

#### How to Help Your Child Transition Smoothly Between Places and Activities

Alyson Jiron, Brooke Brogle & Jill Giacomini

Transitioning, or moving, to new places, people and activities is something we do many times during the day. However, change can be overwhelming and seem unpredictable for your child, especially when she is not ready to move on to the next place or activity. Children make many transitions each day from parents to teachers, from home to car, or from play time to the dinner table, for example. When and how often transitions occur are usually decided by an adult and children often act out with challenging behavior when they feel unable to control their routine. When you help your child prepare for transitions you are helping her to learn a valuable skill. The good news is that you can teach her this important skill while you are enjoying time together.



### 🔁 Try This at Home

- Use a timer, an instrument or a funny noise to give your child advance warning of routine transition events. If possible, ask him to help "alert" everyone to the upcoming event. For example, let your toddler bang a pot with a wooden spoon to let the family know it is time for dinner.
- Let your child pick out a special object or toy to transition with to the next activity or place. "Would kitty like to come with us to the grocery store? I wonder if she could help us find the items on our list?"
- Use a visual schedule to show your child the plan for the day. "First, you have school and then we are going to take Aunt Rachel's gift to the post office and mail it to her."
- Make the transition a game or activity where the child has the opportunity to move around. "I wonder if today we can use this big shovel to scoop the cars into the bucket while we clean up?" If possible, let him think of the game. "I wonder how we could get to the car today?" You might be surprised at his creativity and how much fun you have roaring like a dinosaur or hopping like a rabbit.
- Sing songs as you transition. Children love to hear songs as they move about their day. Make up silly songs together about what you are doing or where you are going. You are sure to get a laugh and likely a smooth transition.
- Give your child a job. Children are more cooperative when they can be part of the process. Perhaps he can help stir something for dinner, unlock the car doors with the remote or pick out a diaper before a diaper change.

SOUTH FLORIDA

#### Practice at School

Children transition from one activity to the next throughout their day at preschool. Teachers plan for transitions in advance by creating special routines. These routines help to prepare children for transitions, engage them in the change that is taking place and help them to move smoothly to the next activity. Teachers might use a special instrument or song to let children know it is clean up time. Teachers might read books to the children while they are standing in line waiting for a turn to wash their hands before snack or create an obstacle course or morning routine to help children and parents transition at drop-off. When children are able to participate in or lead the transition, they are excited and eager to move to a new activity.

#### 🚱 The Bottom Line

The more a child can predict and participate in the schedule and activities of her day, the less likely it is that challenging behavior will occur and the more likely it is that she will eagerly engage in transitions to new people and places. Taking the time and making the effort to teach her what to expect, when it will happen, and what happens before the transition occurs can be a rewarding experience. Most importantly, it is also an opportunity for quality time that can help lead to smoother transitions.

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#### **Attention All Head Start and Early Head Start Parents!**

Register with your Family Worker for your free pass when school reopens!



#### For more information on any of Yeled v'Yalda's services, please call:

Headstart	718.686.3700 *3
Early Headstart	718.514.8600 *1
Project REACH	718.514.8600
Special Education	718.686.3700 *1
Early Intervention	718.686.3700 *2
Title I	718.686.2320

AB	A Program	718.514.8600
AB	A Insurance	718.686.2305
Ezr	a Medical Center	718.686.7600
WI	C Program	718.686.3799
NY	S Health Marketplace.	718.686.2189
Fitr	ness Center <b>71</b>	8.686.3700 *7

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