

# Sinai Nursery School

West San Jose

## Provider Profile

Sinai Nursery School is a non-profit preschool operating in connection with a religious organization that provides toddler and preschool care and is open to children of all backgrounds.

**“I am very thankful for this grant; The infant program would not be possible without it.”**

*– Ifat Kantorovich, Director  
Sinai Nursery School*

## Grant Activities

Sinai Nursery School was awarded a center operations grant to convert an unused space into a new classroom for infant care. Sinai has long provided care to children ages two and up, but the new infant program afforded the site an opportunity to serve additional families and increase the pipeline of new enrollments. The ability of providers to enroll young children can support longer-term enrollment and financial sustainability as children age into toddler and preschool classrooms.

The infant classroom was licensed in January 2025 to serve up to 12 infants starting at six months of age. Grant funds were used to convert an unused classroom to an infant space and hire teachers to provide care in the new program. Sinai Nursery School was able to quickly enroll infants into the space and manage a waitlist of children to be able to begin attending once they turn six-months old.



Infant programs require higher staff ratios to provide care driving expense for childcare operators and also the cost of care for families. Grant funds were critical to supporting the initial expenses to outfit the infant classroom and the wages and benefits of employees to operate the infant room.

## Use of Funds

- **Wages and benefits for teachers in the infant classroom.**
- **Purchase of new furniture, equipment, toys and books for the infant classroom.**
- **Advertising for both hiring teachers and announcement of new infant program.**

## Sinai Nursery School (continued)



### Lessons Learned

The Sinai Nursery School Infant Program at times has struggled to maintain staffing to support enrollment up to the licensed capacity. Turnover and challenges hiring experienced staff has been a challenge for Sinai despite offering somewhat higher pay and providing health benefits to employees which is not common across childcare centers. Sinai Nursery School has reached out to local college Early Childhood Education Programs and the Santa Clara County FIRST 5 childcare apprenticeship program seeking connections to well qualified infant care teachers.

Sinai has also reported concerns about the financial sustainability of the infant program given the high teacher to infant ratio driving

program costs. Infant classrooms may operate at a loss compared to toddler or preschool rooms with higher child to teacher ratios. Centers must balance the overall enrollment benefit to the center with the high cost to provide infant care.

**“Providing fair and competitive wages is fundamental to building and sustaining a high-quality early childhood program.”**

*– Ifat Kantorovich, Director  
Sinai Nursery School*

### Policy Issues

Demand for infant care is high but childcare providers may struggle to cover operating costs and keep care affordable for families. Addressing the cost of care is central to expanding access to needed infant care spaces and workforce availability.

### Potential Policy Actions

- **Prioritize subsidies, supplemental payments or other funding models for affordable childcare to support infant programs that are the most costly for providers to operate and the least affordable for families.**
- **Explore childcare funding models that can support livable wages and benefits for childcare workers.**
- **Support early childhood workforce development programs through colleges and apprenticeship programs to build the pool of qualified staff including in infant care, and inclusive education.**



[valleyhealthfoundation.org/cgp](https://valleyhealthfoundation.org/cgp)



2400 Clove Drive, San Jose, CA 95128 | 408.885.5299

The Childcare Expansion Grant Program is funded by the County of Santa Clara Through the Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.



© 2026 Valley Health Foundation

Valley Health Foundation is an independent, community-driven 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to support quality health and healthcare for all in Santa Clara County (Tax ID 77-0187890).