

Leonid Averbuch



This is me at the age of two. This photo was taken in Odessa in 1932. I was born on 31st October 1930. Both my parents worked but I didn't go to kindergarten. I had a nanny Olesia. I remember her well. She was a nice and caring Ukrainian old woman. I didn't go to kindergarten. I studied with a teacher who had a Froebel diploma; there were graduates of this institute in Odessa. Many of them knew foreign languages and taught children to speak a foreign language. My teacher Polina

Ianovna Galka didn't know any foreign languages, but when she fell ill or went on vacation we had a replacement, Victoria Georgiivna Moskalyova, who taught me French. There were seven other children in my group. This group gathered at the teacher's home. We, children, brought our breakfast with us. We went for a walk on Primorski Boulevard or to Teatralnaya Square, or the Palais Royal [this is how Odessites call the garden near the Odessa Opera House], or Gorodskoy garden. Then we went to her house, where we had our breakfast, played games and learned to read. Every summer our family rented a dacha [cottage] at the seashore. In 1938 Uncle Samuel built a dacha and we stayed there all together. When I was small we traveled to the dacha on a horse-drawn cart. I sat beside the balagula [coachman] on his seat and several times I even used the whip on the horse.