



Hanukah themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Subject Area: Jewish Living and Identity, Holidays, Prayer, Jewish History, Culture & Art.

Target Age Group: Families with young children ranging from preschoolers to first graders.

Lesson Objective:

To teach about Hanukah and to create a comfortable learning environment that helps families with young children integrate Jewish traditions and customs into the fabric of their lives as well as connect to the synagogue. The program attracts many families with young children who are seeking an opportunity to meet other Jews within their demographic. It also appeals to interfaith families who do not possess the skill set to create a Jewish experience and want to gain exposure to Jewish living.

Summary:

The program begins with a short Shabbat service which includes Hinei Mah Tov, The Shalom Song, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, and Miriam's Song as well as a closing song and story connected to Hanukah. Possible books to choose from include Dance, Sing, Remember – A Celebration of Jewish Holidays by Leslie Kimmelman, Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel by Stephen Carpenter, While the Candles Burn – Eight Stories for Hanukah by Barbara Diamond Goldin, and A Blue's Clues Chanukah by Jessica Lissy.

Nametags are provided for families as they arrive, as well as instruments for children to play during the service. After the service, everyone participates in the blessings over the wine and the challah, as well as the lighting of the menorah. Latkes and jelly doughnuts are available for participants to snack on. Next, children may choose from a variety of activities and art projects. Children may concentrate on just one activity, or they can try their hand at them all. Possibilities include playing dreidel, designing Hanukah Cards, or making meditational menorahs (see appendix for more information). Plain paper and crayons are also available for children to illustrate their favorite part of Hanukah.



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Finally, the program concludes with the singing of Shalom Chaverim, as well as an invitation to attend next month's program. Handouts relating to Hanukah are distributed to parents as they leave.

APPENDIX:

The Dreidel Game

Make a big pile of pennies (or poker chips, peanuts, etc.) in the middle of the floor. Make small equal piles in front of each player, too. Then take turns spinning the dreidel.

If it lands with the Hebrew letter nun facing up, the player gets nothing and puts in nothing.

If the dreidel has the letter gimmel facing up, the player takes everything in the center pile.

If hay faces up, the player takes half of the center pile.

And if shin is faceup, the player must put two pennies from his own pile into the middle. The person with the most pennies at the end of the game is the winner.

Together, the letters on the dreidel stand for the first letters of the Hebrew words Nes gadol hayah sham: "A great miracle happened there."

In Israel, the last letter on the dreidel is different – po – and the dreidel reads "A great miracle happened here."

Hanukah Cards



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Supply construction paper, Hanukah stickers, small squares of Hanukah wrapping paper, glue sticks, and markers. Let the children use their imagination in designing creative Hanukah cards for their family and friends.

Meditational Menorahs

Buy natural pebbles, tea lights and oblong heavy-duty paper plates. Place 9 tea lights in single file line on a paper plate, and then surround with pebbles. Just remember to place the shamash on a different level by stacking two tea lights on top of each other.