



Aleph Beit Matchbox House

Submitted by: Julia Bry Schwab

Subject Area: Learning Hebrew

Application: Multi-lesson teaching tool

Target Age: 1st thru 3rd grades

Lesson Objectives:

- To make with ease and delight a container for the emerging new language acquisition
- To have a vehicle that is for sharing and for privacy
- To return each week with a new addition to the 3 dimensional vocabulary book
- To reinforce at every juncture that learning is fun and creative
- To make an artistic project that is very easy for a teacher to instigate and finish

Summary:

Taking 1" tall Diamond Brand match box matches and emptying the matches, we will build a set of drawers. The sliding match box "drawer" will be painted with acrylic paints - the more colors the more delight. Each child will need 28 boxes, to start with Aleph and end with Aleph. Four horizontal rows of seven would be a stable structure as the individual boxes are glue-gunned together. Then each box will receive its own letter, plus a small button to open the drawer. Inside each drawer will go new words with little images that correlate to the specific letter. For instance, into the Beit drawer would go a little house with the Hebrew spelling . And so on.

As the weeks of class move on, each meeting is an occasion for the student to bring a new word with a little picture. Very simply, all the contributions could then be pasted onto one sheet of paper and run through the copier, and voila! everybody has a new round of vocabulary words to place into the drawers of their Aleph-Beit boxes. As well, the celebration of a Klipa and its Holy Essence is creatively experienced. Of course, this concept has applicability with prayers going into each drawing, and that is no less wonderful. No doubt, this shiny, many-hued, and multi-storied container does inspire children's inner mysteries. "Ehza kef!"

How to:

1. 28 1" Diamond brand matchboxes/child
2. Empty matches & pull out drawers into separate pieces
3. With paper plate pallettes, little Dixie cups of water, several tubes of inexpensive acrylic paints, and brushes all set out on a table, allow kids to chose their materials to paint the sides of all match boxes, the tops of 7, and all the ends of the sliding drawers.....allow to dry at least two hours
4. The calligraphy of each Hebrew letter can be practiced & talked about - the task is then to paint individual letters with a small brush now, same accoutrement of supplies, upon each drawer face (part that slides)
5. With hot glue gun (to be used by adults!), attach a button onto each DRIED drawer as an opener
6. Glue gun again to stack 4 rows of seven (or 7 rows of 4 - a bit topsy turvy I fear)



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7. The container is now done ! 3 short sessions - no more.
8. Create assignment that puts into USE this "jewelry box" of compartments, like images that have the Hebrew equivalents spelled out . Perhaps to have each student chose one letter that represents a simple word with an illustration, and then to make enough copies to share the others in class.

Remember that acrylic paint will permanently leave traces upon tables & clothes.....newspapers & smocks respectively.