



## SHARING MY EXPERIENCES & LEARNING HEBREW VOCABULARY

Submitted by: SHIRLY PUGATZKY

### **Subject Area:**

**Hebrew language**

**Learning and accumulating Hebrew vocabulary**

Specify:

Teaching tool

Target Age group:

Good for all age groups including adults. A basic knowledge in reading Hebrew is required for this stage of learning.

Lessons Objectives:

This teaching tool has proven to be one of the children's favorite activities as well as an effective instrument to remember and add new words and concepts in Hebrew. The reason for the later one is that the children (or the adults) get time to share in class what happened for them during the time we didn't meet.

After we share we write some key words from each child's story and usually come up with a long list of 20 words.

With time we accumulate a good amount of words and we create a small dictionary in our note books.

Because each story is different and individual, the kids remember the words by each child. I tend to draw words that refer to different aspects of life such as emotions, colors, concepts (day and night, good and bad and so on), activities, and more.

Some times we take all the new words and the children get some time to write a few paragraphs or a short story, using the new words.

This style of opening the class time is very bonding. The children love to share their life's events. And because the story is close to their heart, so are the words in Hebrew.

Each new word gets a special place within the child's mind and heart, and the child holds dearly these words.

This creates a community in our class room and lifts up the spirits for a new day of studying.



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On one occasion there was a death in the family or a pet died (a fish, a dog) so we take more time to develop ideas.

In these cases I would bring into the discussion some Jewish thoughts about the issue.

For example if we talked about death I presented some Jewish customs around death like the *Shiva'a*, the seven days of sitting while people come to visit and support and the meaning of the community at this time. You could add any knowledge you have at this point with regards to any event or story which goes on.

When one of the children took a trip on a boat we talked about Jonah and the whole incident with the boat, the relationship with the ocean and how God uses the nature sometimes to teach a lesson or to show powers beyond human's ordinary concepts on the world we live in.

So the idea is to creatively and spontaneously use what the children bring in and weave it with any aspect of Judaism which comes to mind.

As for the Hebrew vocabulary part I am highly recommending that you will have a Hebrew dictionary at all times in your class room, especially if Hebrew is not your first language. This way you can look any word that comes up and you can enrich yourself as well.

In one of my classes I taught the children how to look things up in the Hebrew- English dictionary. They did very well and had to learn the Alphabetic order of the Hebrew letters. That was with 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up kids.

As for the smaller children, I have a pictured dictionary which I own and always keep close by. This way you could give the children time to look up some words themselves, they can work in pairs and usually they like it a lot.

You could always use HaSiria as a resource for dictionaries.

I am going to photocopy some pages from the illustrated dictionary I have and add it to the hard copy of this lesson plan which will be in the teacher resource center for your use.