

Meaningful Middot:

Making Learning Stick

2. Connect the Text

Choose a piece of text that relates to the activity: a selection of Torah, a quote, a poem, or book for younger students. Write down what you will be reading/sharing, the **middot** it applies to, and how you will discuss its relevance to the activity:

I will introduce the blessing we say in the morning - *Melishin Yumim* - and clothes the naked as a way of appreciation of what we have and can discuss what we can give.

3. Framing the Activity

Include materials you will need, instructions, grouping (if applicable), and background info students will need to understand the purpose of the activity.

Will share information about the agency we will be supporting today - *Mitzvah Circle* will also brainstorm other agencies students are aware of that also "clothe the naked."

4. Describe the Activity

- sorting clothes
- making caring cards

4a. Do the activity.

1. Tell Your Story

How is this activity meaningful to you? Jot down a personal story or anecdote that will help students understand your connection.

While visiting the Mitzvah Circle Foundation warehouse with a group of 6th graders and their families a few years ago, I noticed empty bins of clothes. Knowing that packages cannot get filled for people in crises with empty bins, I made a habit of shopping clearance aisles regularly.

5. Discuss the Experience

How will you reflect on the experience? Include information about how you will re-focus the students, what questions you will ask, and how you will wrap it up at the end so that the meaning and connection sticks.

After the activity, I will ask students to answer one of the following questions -

- I was surprised by...
- I want to know more about...
- I feel gratified by...

The most interesting thing I saw today was...

Students will receive information about how they can connect agencies they saw today with in the future.



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BEFORE:

- What are the Big Ideas you want your students to take away from this experience?

- That helping others is a Jewish value.

- We have people in need in our own neighborhoods.

- It takes a village to make a difference and everyone's help helps.

- Which middah/ot are you connecting to this lesson?
Rachamim - compassion

Hesed - kindness

Hakarat Hatziv - gratitude

AFTER:

- What went well?

Students were actively involved.
There was a positive energy in the room.

- What would you do differently?

I'd include more time for setting.
I'd have additional signs prepared so students had clear instructions.

- What did you hear students say during reflection?

"It was interesting that I hadn't thought of the recipients of my donations as real people before."

- What would you want parents to know about the experience?

Acts of service carry out Jewish values.

Parents will receive information about the agenda we've sent today.

