



The Jewish Special Needs/Disability Inclusion Consortium of Greater Philadelphia

Presents

Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM) Lesson Plans



Jewish Learning Venture innovates programs that help people live connected Jewish lives.

261 Old York Road, Suite 720 / Jenkintown, PA 19046 / 215.320.0360 / jewishlearningventure.org

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INTRODUCTION

Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM) is a unified national initiative during the month of February that aims to raise disability awareness and foster inclusion in Jewish communities worldwide.

In the Philadelphia area, the Jewish Special Needs/Disability Inclusion Consortium works to expand opportunities for families of students with disabilities. The Consortium is excited to share these comprehensive lesson plans with schools, youth groups, and early childhood centers in our area.

We appreciate you making time for teachers to use these lessons during February—or whenever it's convenient for you.

For additional resources, please email me at gkaplan-mayer@jewishlearningventure.org or call me at 215-320-0376.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer,

Chief Program Officer

**JDAIM 2018 Lesson Plan: Pre-K
Whole Community Inclusion**

Created by: Ellen Walters (adapted from the [PJ Library resource guide](#))

Objectives:

1. Help children and their families develop an acceptance and respect for differences and unique abilities
2. Engage in Purim learning

Materials:

- *Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale* by Barbara Diamond Goldin
- Pre-made sugar cookie dough (or play dough)
- Cookie Sprinkles (optional)
- If baking - a few parents or madrichim in the classroom to help with the project.

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

February is Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM for short). During February, the Jewish community works to raise awareness about how we can all support people with disabilities. We're going to think about how we can see some kinds of disabilities and others we can't see. Today we are going to use the Purim story to help us remember that when we only look at people from the outside, we only see some of who they are. Today, we want to recognize how every human being is amazing and unique and how every human being also faces some kind of challenges. Let's learn about how to support each other's challenges and recognize what is special about each of us!

Jewish Value:

- Being created in the image of God (B'tzelem Elohim)
- Each individual has unique abilities and challenges (Adam Yihidi Nivrah)

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes):

SAY: *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha'olam mishneh et habriyot.*

Blessed are you, Holy One our God, Majesty of the Universe, who makes people different.

ASK:

- What makes you different from everyone else in your family? What are you really good at?
- What can you say is special about ... (you, your mom, your friend, your teacher)
- What is special about your classmates who are in this room with you?

READ OUTLOUD:

SAY: We are going to read a story about Hershel, a little boy who is different because he is blind (which means he can't see with his eyes). We will see that just because he can't see with his eyes doesn't mean he can't see at all, or that he can't do things.

READ: *Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale* by Barbara Diamond Goldin. *Remember to pause wherever necessary.

ASK:

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- When do you think this story is set? Is it now or long ago? Why?
- How does Hershel help his mom?
- Why does Hershel's mom think he can't help bake cookies?
- Does blindness limit Hershel?
- How does Hershel's imagination help him?
- How do you use your imagination?

WRAP-UP (options):

1. **Baking activities**

- a. Use packaged sugar cookie dough OR playdough if you do not have the resources to bake.
- b. Give each student a portion of dough equivalent to one cookie.
- c. Have children create cookies without using cookie cutters. The goal is for the students to use their imagination, like Hershel, to shape cookies - it could be a fish, a flower, a person, etc. CHALLENGE - try to form a cookie with your eyes closed.
- d. If applicable, sprinkle the cookies with candy sprinkle.
- e. Have the students share their cookie creations with the class.
- f. Bake according to the directions on the dough package.
- g. Take a picture of your students and their cookie creations and send it to Gabby Kaplan-Mayer at gkaplan-mayer@jewishlearningventure.org for use in our [JDAIM expressive art gallery](#).
- h. EAT!!

Extra Resources:

Here is a great Sesame Street Episode to teach students about blindness:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNpsaXrDKfw>