

A Sense of Jewish Symbols 24/7



for the Early Childhood & Primary School Classroom
 A weekly idea from SAJES Dept. of Early Childhood Education
 Week of December 16 - 21, 2007 / 7 - 11 Tevet, 5768

Jewish Symbols -24/7

The Kiddush Cup

When one says the Kiddush, it means that they are sanctifying the Shabbat or festival, although many think, incorrectly, that saying the Kiddush sanctifies the wine. We say *Kiddush* over the wine, prior to eating a festive meal. The kiddush act is a simple but most meaningful one. The word “Kiddush” comes from the Hebrew “Kadosh”- or holy. By sanctifying the Shabbat or festival what is really being done is creating holy *TIME*. So why use a cup to make this time holy? A cup of wine is symbolic in Judaism of joy, and Shabbat and holidays are times of joy and happiness. When the Kiddush was established in the days of the Talmud, holiday meals began with wine. And from then until today, the Shabbat and festival meals begin with the Kiddush over wine. The two items needed for Kiddush, are a Kiddush cup and wine. Usually, the Kiddush cup is one of the most beautiful ritual items in the home. It can be made of silver, ceramic, glass or any other material. The wine that is used is usually red, and made from grapes – the fruit of the vine. If wine is not available, grape juice can be used. The Kiddush can be recited while sitting or standing. Some think that standing shows more honor to sanctifying the Shabbat. The Kiddush cup of the leader is usually filled to the brim and even overflowing as because Kiddush should be recited over a full cup of wine. The overflowing wine is again, a symbol of the overflowing joy of Shabbat’s arrival.

“...the Kiddush!...It is a proven factor of of incalculable worth in linking loving hearts to home, to kindred, to Israel and to God.” *Sabbath Sentiment* by Berkowitz

Multi-Intelligence Integration Ideas

- ☆ If you have a water table out, give the students cups and bottles to practice pouring to the brim. Can they pour without overflowing the cup?
- ☆ Ask the students if they would like to stand or sit for Kiddush during their Shabbat ceremony. Do they want the leader to stand? Do they want to all stand for the blessing and then sit to drink? There are many options and they might want to try a few of them!
- ☆ There is a story called The Kiddush Cup That Hated Wine by Byrd Salop. It is very long and I don't recommend reading it out loud, but it would be a wonderful play for the children to act out. You can tell them the story and they can decide on the characters and make costumes. Or you could make this into a flannel/magnet/Velcro board story to share.
- ☆ What materials can the class use to make a Kiddush Cup? Can they make one from model magic or clay (with a cup to fit inside)? Can they use a glass or wineglass and decorate it? Perhaps together the class could design a special cup to be used for their Shabbat ceremony.



- ☆ Two recipes for making your own grape juice! [Thriving Babies: A Simple Grape Juice Recipe To Try](#)
[Simply Recipes: Making Grape Juice](#)

HEBREW VOCABULARY

כוס /KOSE/CUP

יין /YI-YEN/WINE

גפן /GEH-FIN/VINE

ענבים /A-NA-VIM/GRAPES

The Symbol: the outward expression of the inward signification- should above all charm the senses by and for itself. Heine

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