

## 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 November 25 - 30, 2007 / 15- 20 Kislev 5768

### Jewish Symbols -24/7 The Chanukiah

During the Hanukkah a special Menorah called the Hanukkiah or Chanukiah, is lit. The Chanukiah is probably one of the most recognizable symbols of Chanukah.

The Chanukkiah is a candelabrum with eight branches of equal size that all sit in a row (one for each night of the festival of Hanukkah) and a separate candle holder for the "Shamash" or "helper candle" as some call it. The Shamash candle is used to light the other eight candles since it is forbidden to use the Hanukkah lights for any purpose other than viewing. When lit, the Chanukiah should be placed in a front window or in a place for all to see.

Lighting the Chanukiah is a joyous occasion. The Hanukkah Menorah is lit to recall the Maccabees' miraculous victory over the Greek-Syrian army and the story of the one day's worth of pure oil that miraculously lasted for eight days in the Temple.

How do we set up and light the Chanukiah? We place the first candle in the Chanukiah on the right side. On the second night we once again place candles to the right but we light the newest candle first, moving from left to right just as we read Hebrew! We light the shamash and hold it up while singing the first blessing. While singing the other blessings we light the candles one at a time.

*"Kindle the taper like the steadfast star /Ablaze on evening's forehead o'er the earth,  
 And add each night a lustre till afar /An eightfold splendor shine above thy hearth."  
 Emma Lazarus, "The Feast of Lights"*

### Multi-Intelligence Integration Ideas

- ✧ I am suggesting some of these ideas as PRE-CHANUKAH activities, and some can be continued during the week of Chanukah.
- ✧ It would be fun to have a Chanukiah museum in the class. The students could bring a Chanukiah from home (with parental permission) and let them share their special Chanukiah with one another. They might want to draw the ones that they like or take pictures and write their stories about the Chanukiah as they tell about it and make a book to be read the rest of the year.
- ✧ The children can be the candles on the Chanukiah. Make a Chanukiah shape with masking tape on the floor (or let them do the taping). Call out a night and have the children position themselves and then stand, as they would be lit. Ask someone to be the Shamash, and that person taps the candles lightly as they are lit
- ✧ Last week I suggested looking at oil, this week, let the children discover the properties of candles. Do they smell (There are scented candles! Can you do a scent test and see if they can name the smell? Or can they vote for their favorite scent?)? Can they write (After all they are made of wax as are crayons! – What would happen if they drew with a wax candle and then water colored over the writing?) with candles? Can they categorize the candles by large and small, color and shape?

### HEBREW VOCABULARY

**נְרֵאִים /NAIR (OT)/ CANDLE (S)**

**שְׂמאל / S'MOLE/ LEFT**

**יְמין / YA-MIN /RIGHT**

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

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