



Chabad Hebrew School

ב"ה

A project of Chabad of Sudbury

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to another wonderful year at Chabad Hebrew School. We are anticipating a year full of enjoyable learning and engaging activities.

This handbook is designed to encourage your input and participation in our program by sharing our goals with you, and the steps we plan to take to meet them.

A fresh, positive approach and lots of enthusiasm is the hallmark of Chabad and will be prevalent in our school.

The goal of Sudbury Chabad Hebrew School is to provide the children with an education and memories that will inspire them for a lifetime. To give them pride, a feeling for caring and sharing with one another, a strong command of the Hebrew language, a love and attachment to the Land of Israel past and present, and a genuine understanding of Judaism.

Our Hebrew School is dedicated to providing a Jewish education, which will enable our children to secure the knowledge and understanding to enable them to be Jews who are proud of their Jewish identity and values.

So much of what we will do depends on you. Please view this booklet as an ongoing invitation to actively pursue the goals we share, at home and within your environment.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Parent & Student Hebrew School Orientation in early September.

Sincerely,

Shayna Freeman



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SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are enthusiastic about the beautiful lessons and values that Judaism provides, and we hope to transmit that excitement to the children through the excellent Hebrew School program at Chabad.

We have prepared an outstanding program that will give your child a solid foundation in the fundamentals of Judaism, and will instill in your child the faith, beauty and values of our heritage.

All lessons will be taught in a manner that will give the children a great appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage. Role-playing, arts & crafts, and songs will be incorporated to help make the lessons enjoyable.

We are planning special programs which will take place at different times throughout the year, such as Shabbat experiences, Chanukah Party, Purim Fun, Passover Matzah Baking, Model Seder, and more.

We believe that the joy and pride in Judaism that will be experienced at the Chabad Hebrew School will make an indelible impression upon the children.

Curriculum

Hebrew Reading and Writing

Hebrew Prayer

Conversational Hebrew

Jewish Laws and Customs

Jewish Holidays

Jewish Values

Jewish History

The Jewish Calendar

Love for Israel

Synagogue Life

Bible - Torah Portions

Jewish Songs



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HEBREW LANGUAGE:

Children will learn to recognize and identify all of the Hebrew letters and vowels. As the children progress, they will climb the ladder of Hebrew reading at their own pace, using the Aleph Champ reading program (please see attached for more information about the Aleph Champ program). Additionally, they will begin to learn how to write some of the letters. Conversational Hebrew is a basic part of our program - Children will gain a base line of the Hebrew language and they will learn Hebrew words related to current themes.

MITZVOT:

Children will be taught the meaning of Mitzvot - Torah commandments - and will be encouraged to enjoy the experience of doing mitzvot (good deeds). Some mitzvot emphasized are Charity, loving one another, kindness to living creatures, hospitality, honoring parents, and mezuzah.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS:

Children will learn to appreciate the special quality and holiness of Shabbat and Holidays. They will become familiar with the historical background, customs, and observances of each festival throughout the year.

PRAYERS:

Children will become familiar with basic prayers and blessings, as well as the reasons and meanings behind them.

JEWISH HISTORY & TRADITION:

Over the year the children will learn about many of the important events and lessons which have helped shape Jewish History. Each year we incorporate a central theme into our weekly lessons.



The Aleph Champ Reading Program

The Aleph Champion Program is a brainstorm idea based on the karate motivational system of colors and levels. The entire reading system was divided into levels of different colors. This arrangement ensures that students learn to read Hebrew at their own pace in an efficient, well-organized method.

Children begin with the white level, practicing the first half of the aleph-bet and move through the ten levels, ending with reading fluently. Children will receive an Aleph Champ home kit so they can practice their level at home, and move ahead. Home kit items are to be returned to the school as the child moves ahead and are replaced with the next level items. Children will be tested throughout the year and can move up a level at any time. Awards are given throughout the year as well.

Aleph Champ History

A long, long time ago, (back in the year 2003) a young and energetic Chabad Hebrew School Director decided to expand her recreational activities by joining a local Torah Dojo Karate class. Under the tutelage of "Sensei Diane" she began learning the techniques of Karate.

One fine morning it dawned upon her that learning **Karate** was indeed quite similar to the reading program at the Hebrew School she was running. The parallels were incredible. First, both systems ran once a week, leaving way too much space time from class to class for any substantial progress. Second, at home, few parents were clued in to what the child was learning. Practicing Karate at home, no one would have noticed whether she was practicing a front, side or round-house kick. Similar to the parent who tries to help with her child's Hebrew reading work but can't tell a *Kamatz* from a *Koobotz*. And last, there were students of all levels in class at the same time.

With all these similarities, there was just one major difference. In Karate, students were motivated to progress, were practicing for test dates with friends, and graduated from level to level quite quickly. Hebrew reading at the Hebrew School however was looking quite different. Students were learning to read year after year, without too much motivation to progress and failing to read properly by the time they needed to read for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

So what was being done in Karate that could be adapted to the Hebrew School?

When a student steps into a Karate class, it is *very clear* what level everyone is on. The teacher is a **Black Belt**. Some students who have been studying for years are Purple or even Brown Belts. Beginners wear White Belts and there is a plethora of other colored belts.

It is very clear what one needs to know in order to pass a level and the reward is merely the change in color belt, a change in status.

If only there was some way to divide reading into a clear color coded system with levels easily defined and attainable... A program in which students would be excited about learning to read Hebrew and motivated to advance to the level of the teacher...



How does it work?

Step 1: Students are tested for their level using the aleph champ quiz book.

Step 2: Once placed in a level, the children receive a colored aleph champ reading primer depending on which color they passed.

Step 3: When a student progresses to the point of advancing a level, a testing date is set. The child is tested and receives an Aleph Champ Medallion as well as a new color book.

Step 4: Teachers are designated for the different color reading groups. **Aleph Champ Centers** are set up for reading, writing, games and flashcard review. The centers help to break up the teaching time and when short-staffed, even act as substitute teachers.

Step 5: Students are motivated and excited. The Aleph Champion Program is a success.

Aleph Champ Levels

1. **White Aleph Champion** – Master the first 18 letters of the Aleph Bet.
2. **Red Aleph Champion** – Master all 32 letters of the Aleph Bet.
3. **Orange Aleph Champion** – Master the first 3 vowels with letter combinations.
4. **Yellow Aleph Champion** – Master the first 6 vowels with letter combinations.
5. **Green Aleph Champion** – Master the first 9 vowels with letter combinations.
6. **Blue Aleph Champion** – Master all the vowels and exceptions to the rules.
7. **Purple Aleph Champion** – Master reading familiar Prayers and Brachot.
8. **Brown Aleph Champion** – Master reading important Tefillot.
9. **Grey Aleph Champion** – Master reading from the Siddur in a timed fashion.
10. **Black Aleph Champion** – Master reading over 100 words in a minute