



Leo Baeck College
At the Heart of Progressive Judaism

Introducing **איזה כיף!** (What fun!)
A brand new Hebrew programme geared for children in
Jewish Day and Supplementary Schools.
Produced exclusively in the United Kingdom

Background information:

1. The curriculum, graphics and design have been produced exclusively for Leo Baeck College in the UK and are unique.
2. Learning is fun because it is achieved through games and thus minimises the fear factor for children and teachers!
3. There are 7 units in total - 4 have already been published and are already widely used in the UK, some parts of Europe and also in the USA.
4. Children start as early as 5 years of age.
5. By the end of the first unit, children are able to read and understand a simple text in Hebrew and have learned 6 letters and 5 vowels.
6. By the end of the fourth unit, children will have learned all their Hebrew letters and vowels.
7. The remaining 3 units, based around three new themes, builds on this knowledge in the form of short stories, texts etc.
8. The strength of the programme is that each new unit builds on the previous one and incorporates all the vocabulary from each. In this way, children learn the language in building blocks.
9. Each unit is predicated on a Jewish value from Tanach - so the programme, albeit a Modern Hebrew programme, is never far from Jewish sources.
10. The programme allows for differentiation in the class from the first instance as three different sizes of the same pictures and vocabulary are provided in the Games Kit so that different levels of students can access the same content at the same time, but in smaller groups/pairs etc. The bingo game, which is played when all words, sounds and pictures have been introduced, is an effective assessment tool to check whether children can read, know the vocabulary etc and if not, what needs to be recapped.
11. Teachers can improve their vocabulary and knowledge through the programme as it is given in small amounts and this should also increase confidence within the teachers.
12. Teachers with more oral Hebrew ability can bring that into the lesson, but it is not crucial as long as the target words for each unit are covered.

The 7 units are:

Family - משפחה
Shabbat - שבת
Toys - צעצועים
Home - בית
Synagogue - בית כנסת
Fruit and vegetables - פירות וירקות
Animals - בעלי חיים

The themes for each unit were chosen to reflect the children's experiences and knowledge of the world as well as bringing in two specifically Jewish themes. Each unit lends itself beautifully for integration into Jewish studies lessons.

How to teach the programme:

The programme follows the natural acquisition of language by children and is taught in different stages as set out below:

- a. **First**, children have an **oral and visual** (pictures) experience of the target vocabulary
- The target vocabulary to be taught for Unit 1 is:

מִשְׁפָּחָה, אָבָא, אִמָּא, יֶלֶד, יֶלְדָה, סָבָא, סִבָּתָא, אָת, אַחוֹת, דוֹד, דּוֹדָה, תִּינוּק, תִּינוּקָת.

- b. **Second**, children move on to the **whole words** of those pictures – thus giving a global understanding of the words.
- c. **Third**, the words get broken down into **syllables**.
- d. **Fourth**, the **first sounds** of each word is emphasised – these first sounds of each word is the **key** to getting the children to read and write.
- e. All the above four stages are achieved through playing many different games, explained in a games guide, that are provided in the **Games Kit**.
- f. **Fifth**, once the majority of the children can read all the target vocabulary and know all their first sounds, they are ready to move onto their individual **activity book** which revises all the knowledge thus far learned but in a different way.

Children **accumulate** all the Hebrew letters and vowels over the **first 4 units**.

Full training and on-going support are provided for all users, which are done face to face and, even very successfully, through SKYPE.

For more information contact:

Jo-Ann Myers, Director of Jewish Education, Leo Baeck College.

Email: jo-ann.myers@lbc.ac.uk

SKYPE: joannmyers

Phone: +44 (0) 20 8349 5626.

Leo Baeck College

Sternberg Centre for Judaism • 80 East End Road, Finchley, London N3 2SY
United Kingdom

www.lbc.ac.uk