Working with Young Campers

*Specialty Track, Session 2*

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| **AUTHOR(S):** | Asya Gribov |
| **SUMMARY:** | Participants will solve challenges on their quest to become superheroes. Participants will create programs for meaningful experiences on the first day of camp, as well as bedtime rituals. - *Submitted by* *Asya Gribov* |
| **TOPIC(S):** | Bedtime Ritual, Young Children, Communication Skills, Community Building, Group Dynamics |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** | Participants will gain tools for creating meaningful experiences on the first day of camp, as well as bedtime rituals. |
| **AUDIENCE:** | Staff, campers, small-to-medium size group, all ages |
| **TIMING:** | 75-90 minutes |
| **APPENDICES:** | None |
| **MATERIALS NEEDED:** | *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka  Paper  Pens, markers |
| **SET-UP DETAILS:** | AV set up |

**Session Timeline & Outline:**

Session Description:

“Welcome back! I am glad to see you all back and that none of you have abandoned the mission.”

**Mission #3 - Getting Out of Your Comfort Zone Comic** **(15 minutes)**

Think back to a time that you were out of your comfort zone. A time that you took a risk. You might have felt scared, uncomfortable, brave. Think about who was involved. Where this was. How you were feeling.

Draw a comic about that time.

Handout X- Comic Strips

Pass your comic to the person sitting next to you. The participant who receives the comic will create an alternative ending to the story by placing post-its with an alternative ending that was a happy ending. Participants can share their stories and the alternative endings if they wish. Participants can also retell the story from another character’s perspective.

Upon completion award 1 JS token – Lech Lecha

**1st Day of Camp (20 minutes)**

Discuss:

* What is going on inside kids’ minds on first day of camp?
* What does it mean to be the first camp experience for young campers?
* What are you planning for the first day of camp?
* How can you ensure that this is a positive experience for campers?

Idea share:

Working in small groups, counselors come up with activities to welcome campers on the first day of camp.

**Mission #4 – Seeing Different Perspectives (30 minutes)**

Read The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

Write a story about a day of camp from the campers’ perspective.

Upon completion receive 1 JS token - Elu V’Elu

**Mission #5 – Dancer (20 minutes)**

What is wrong with a child that is always moving and can’t sit still?

We have a message from another superhero. Turn your attention to the screen and meet Sir Ken Robinson. Watch: Sir Ken Robinson – She’s Not Sick, She’s a Dancer

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpCIQKSqDd4>

Discussion Questions:

How can this video guide how we treat kids in camp?

Upon completion receive 1 JS token - Shevirah - brokenness

**Mission #6 Bedtime Rituals (20 minutes)**

The Shema allows us to reflect on our day and make sure that the last thoughts prior to sleep are positive ones. Campers do not have any time to themselves in camp. How can you give campers a time to reflect on their actions, day, emotions?

Participants work in small groups to come up with three evening activities that allow campers to reflect on their day.

You have earned 1JS –Shabbat

**Mission #7 Ask the Right Questions (20 minutes)**

To get the next JS token you must figure out these puzzles. You must figure out what happened in these scenarios and I will only be able to answer you yes or no. Participants must use questions to guess what happened in these scenarios.

1. The Coal, Carrot and Scarf

Five pieces of coal, a carrot, and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason why they should be there. What is it?

2. Death in a Field

A man is lying dead in a field. Next to him there is an unopened package. There is no other creature in the field. How did he die?

3. Push that Car

A man pushed his car. He stopped when he reached a hotel at which point he knew he was bankrupt. Why?

Hooray! You received 1 JS token – Israel

“Your training is completed for the day. Until we meet again.”