

A NOTE TO CAMP LEADERSHIP:

Thank you for the time and attention you are devoting to making sure Jewish camp is a successful experience for as many children as possible. Your plan to implement the Foundation for Jewish Camp Inclusion Training Program demonstrates your dedication to inclusive practices, and to providing your staff with as many tools as possible as they work to support *all* of their campers.

The core philosophy guiding this training program is that camp works best when it works well for everyone - and that every single person at camp has a hand in supporting a culture of inclusion. Every learning opportunity and strategy covered in this program is designed to enhance the camp experience for all children, both with and without disabilities.

Full inclusion doesn't happen overnight. We hope that you, your Inclusion Training Program facilitator, and your participating staff members will take on what feels manageable now, and plan to build upon those efforts as time goes on.

As we learn from *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of our Fathers), "You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." Whether your camp has a long-standing program to include children with disabilities, or you are just starting out, we hope you will encourage your staff to explore how they can take the next step, think a little differently, and start to view inclusion as everyone's job.

Wishing you a successful and inclusive summer!

LEADERSHIP SUPPLEMENT #1

ACTIVITY CHEAT SHEET

Whenever you have the opportunity to plan an activity, provide input, or assist other staff members in planning an activity, keep in mind campers (and staff members) who:

- Hate competition and those who love competition
- Are blind or visually impaired
- Like to do things alone
- Like to do everything in groups
- Are noise intolerant
- Have ADHD or other attention issues
- Prefer being inside
- Only have one or two friends
- Have motor skill impairments
- May not be grade-level readers
- Have communication disabilities
- Have food allergies and intolerances and other dietary restrictions
- Are athletic
- Are unathletic but still want to play
- Are gender non-conforming

Some things on the list below may work best for some campers. How can you create, and support your staff in creating choices that work for the greatest number of campers? When can you encourage them to think “out of the box” and provide some flexibility? This list is not exhaustive - we know your creative staff will come up with many more ideas given the opportunity!

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

- Knitting
- Challah covers
- Mezzuzah cases
- Masks
- Tie dye
- Papercutting
- Drawing
- Carts
- Printing
- Collage
- Clay

JEWISH STUDIES:

- Discussions
- Chavruta
- Jewish arts and crafts
- Text study

SPORTS:

- Gaga
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Karate
- Soccer
- Ropes course
- Running
- Jump rope
- Weightlifting
- Four square
- Flag football
- Team sports with keeping score
- Team sports *without* keeping score
- Tag
- Skating
- Biking
- Mixed sports

IS THE PURPOSE TO FOSTER HEALTHY COMPETITION RATHER THAN EXERCISE? CONSIDER:

- Scrabble
- Chess
- Go Fish
- Risk
- Dungeons and Dragons

SWIMMING:

- Laps
- Racing
- Pool games

NATURE:

- Hikes
- Plant identification
- Outdoor cooking
- Rock collecting
- Indoor learning about nature
- Cleaning up trash
- Learning about climate change
- Identifying animal tracks
- Campfires

RAINY DAY/TOO HOT TO BE OUTDOORS DAY:

- Cards
- Nail painting
- Discussions
- Weaving
- Writing letters
- Storytelling

BUNK:

- Designing a bunk shirt
- Storytelling
- Flashlight walk
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Nail painting
- Cards

DRAMA:

- Improv games
- Silent improv games
- Reading from scripts
- Monologues
- Dramatic reading from picture books

HEBREW:

- Songs
- Writing
- Hebrew table
- Ivrit b'ivrit

LEADERSHIP SUPPLEMENT #2

PRE-CAMP SOCIAL STORIES

SHORT PICTURE STORIES (*often called Social Stories™*):

- Provide a “road map” for what to do when encountering a new or challenging situation.
- Are written in first person/present tense as if the individual is describing events as they happen.
- Are written for and with a particular individual in response to or in anticipation of a particular event.
- Sometimes developed in response to a challenging behavior or problem.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SHORT PICTURE STORIES:

- Be reviewed often, daily, if possible.
- Be reviewed close to the event the story is meant for.
- Are not intended to promote rote compliance, but to teach social understanding.

For many campers, especially younger campers or campers with disabilities, having a social story before camp begins will have a tremendous impact on their ability to transition to camp. Consider how you might be able to support your staff members in creating social stories for their campers, using the examples on the pages that follow.

Day Camp Social Story: originally created by Orlee Krass. Used with permission from Camp Ramah in the Poconos.

SleepAway Camp Social Story: written by Orlee Krass. Used with permission from Camp Ramah in the Poconos.