

The Torah of Bluey: Animated Wisdom

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SUMMARY: In this session we will explore the lessons that Bluey, the popular animated Australian TV show about a 6-year-old blue dog's family antics, can offer to help us be better listeners, caregivers, humans. For real life!

GOALS: If this session, participants will...

- Experience how children's television can teach people of all ages important life lessons.
- Connect Jewish wisdom to social-emotional skills that can help us feel more connected to ourselves and our community.

AUDIENCE: Camp staff or Staff -in-Training working with young children (or for older teen campers reflecting on life's little implicit lessons)

TIMING: 45 minutes

MATERIALS: Television or projector with speakers, colorful printer paper, crayons, sticky gecko toy (optional)

SET-UP: Comfortable space

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:05 – *Welcome*
- 00:05-00:15 – *Sticky Gecko*
- 00:15-00:25 – *Born Yesterday*
- 00:25-00:35 – *Rain*
- 00:35-00:45 – *Dragon*

SESSION OUTLINE

00:00-00:05 – Welcome

00:05-00:15 Sticky Gecko, Season 2 Episode 12 (9 mins)

Dig deep for your WHY

No respect for time, too busy having fun

Prioritize growing into lovely grownups

kavannah/intention vs *kavod*/respect, communication and priorities

00:15-00:25 Born Yesterday, Season 3 Episode 5 (9 mins)

"G-d was in this place, and I did not know."

wonder, holiness all around us

00:25-00:35 Rain, Season 3 Episode 18 (9 mins)

Silent prayer

How do we reprioritize being present and look at situations differently when we slow down and quiet ourselves
Humility

00:35-00:45 Dragon, Season 3 Episode 43 (9 mins)

Having someone who believes in you – protective factor of a trusted adult
That little voice in your head, may be external – but ‘tefilah’ is a reflexive word, from yourself to your self
believing in children, motivation and lifelong impacts

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

If you don't have access to the videos, consider finding the script online and inviting counselors to act out the episodes.
There are other episodes that could easily map to other topics and Jewish texts, even to the Shabbat Torah portions! Play around with using them for tefillah, staff training, or other conversation sparkers.

Tons of other episodes worth exploring, here are just a few:

Dance Mode, Season 2 Episode 1

Consent, Relationship/Trust Building
Whose voices are we making space for?
Different ways to communicate
Consent at every age and stage
Relationship/Trust Building

Stump Fest, Season 2 Episode 6

Perspective taking
Fun looks different for various ages
Imagination and creativity
Chores turned fun, gamification

Baby Race, Season 2 Episode 50

Everyone's on their own journey, their own timeline
Achievement and comparing yourself to others
Communal support, lifting up others
Parent mental health, loneliness

Cricket, Season 3 Episode 47

Healthy competitive
Adaptation
Absent but present parent, different ways to show up and listen
Focus and determination
Long-term goals vs short-term reward

Plus, consider pairing *middot* (Jewish values) with the episodes too!
<https://jewishcamp.org/camp-resources/making-mensches/>