

# HINTS FOR TEACHERS OF CHAI

- **B**e Aware of Your Calendar: Most lessons are stand alone, that is, they can be done without reference to another lesson either before or after it. However, some of them are 2 or 3 parts and must be done in succession. Make sure that they fall in the calendar so that they can be done immediately after each other, without the interruption of vacation, holiday parties or all-school activities.
- **U**se the Parent Letters: Parent letters are a very helpful way of communicating to the parents what is going on in the classroom. The letters found within the curriculum can be re-worded to fit your particular school and class.
- **R**ead the Introductions: For every strand there is an introduction that is different for every level. These sections help you, the teacher, understand the concepts for the strand and level in a way that will allow a higher comfort level for you in teaching.
- **W**alk the Lesson: The students can tell if you are comfortable or not with the material and the lesson. Make sure that you are comfortable. Take the lesson out of the binder and pretend that you are both the teacher and the student. Read out loud the things you will say to them and try to answer the questions as your students will. Imagine in your head, and/or gather together the materials needed to complete the activities and work them through. Make sure that you understand and are comfortable with the things you will do with your class. Envision the unique qualities you bring to the lesson and how you will display them.
- **T**ake Advantage of the Additional Resources Suggestions: These books are suggested to help you build a stronger foundation for the lessons. These are also wonderful ways to expand your own knowledge in these particular areas.
- **P**ay Attention to What Works in Your Classroom: Each set of students is different. By listening to the comments made by your students during a lesson and by watching the excitement level as it ebbs and flows during activities, you can tell how to adjust future lessons to fit your particular classroom.
- **S**pend Time With the Workbook: The Student Workbook is called My Jewish Life Journal since it is a great opportunity for the students to be able explore their own perception of their Jewish life. Is a wonderful way to not only add to the classroom experience, but also to bring that experience home. Keeping up with the workbook will bring an end product that will be a treasure for parents to learn more about their own children's Jewish life. Make sure that the workbook is an integral part of each of the lessons.
- **R**einforce the Enduring Understandings Beyond the Hour of Lesson Time: It is important that the basic ideas and some of the specific words/values of each of the lessons be reinforced throughout the school day. You can do this by incorporating pieces of the lesson in bulletin boards, music, Hebrew class etc. Be creative as you see how this curriculum core can be integrated with the other pieces of your day and year.
- **E**xtend the Lesson: You can use the lesson as a springboard for larger projects such as creating a class Book of Torah, a running list of *G'milut Chasadim* heroes or develop a class *siddur*, for instance.



BEHRMAN HOUSE

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