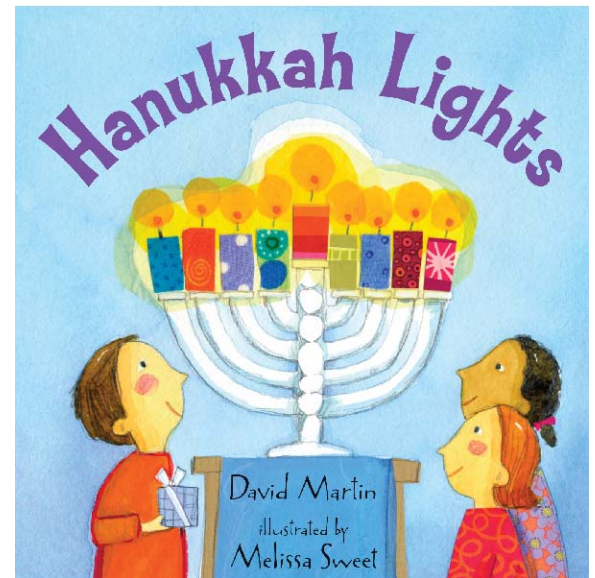


Hanukkah Lights

By David Martin

Program Focus

Age group: 6 months – 3 years old
Time frame: 30-45 minutes
Central value: *Hiddur Mitzvah*: enhancing the celebration of Hanukkah
Celebrating Jewish life with joy



Synopsis

Hanukkah Lights celebrates the exciting holiday of Hanukkah - with latkes to eat, dreidels to spin, songs to sing, and presents to give and receive. This delightful book highlights many aspects of traditional Hanukkah celebrations with illustrations that joyfully portray the diversity of today's Jewish families.

Goals

- Familiarize families with some of the traditional, rituals, and customs of Hanukkah
- Encourage families to think about new ways of celebrating the holiday of Hanukkah
- Enable children to play a more active role in the celebration of Hanukkah

Submitted by

Vivian Newman- Vivian@hgf.org

Plan in advance

Prepare Stations Activity

Materials

- Menorah Station
 - Variety of Hanukkah Menorahs
 - Hanukkah candles
 - Play dough
- Dreidel Station
 - Variety of Dreidels
 - Paper/plastic cups
 - Cut-outs of Hebrew letters (Gimmel, Nun, Hey, Shin)
- Latkes Station
 - Homemade or store-bought latkes
 - Brown paper and scissors
 - Empty frying pan



Advanced Preparations

1. Set up 3 separate tables for each station.
2. Place objects at each table.

Prepare Menorah Safety Lighter

Materials

- Wooden Paint Stirrers
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks, or Tacky glue
- Aluminum Foil
- Tempura Paints (with some glue mixed into them)
- Paint brushes or q-tips
- Glitter (can be placed in an empty shaker)
- Glue
- Tissue-paper shapes
- Hanukkah candles
- Clothespins (with a metal spring that opens and closes)
- Stickers



Advanced Preparations

1. Use the glue gun or tacky glue to attach the clothespin to one side of the paint stirrer.

Introduce with an activity

Stations Activity

Intro Words

In this activity, you will visit 3 separate stations, where you will touch, explore and play with various Hanukkah objects. Each station will focus on one Hanukkah symbol and will include several activities that you might like to try.

Explore a Menorah

Directions / Questions

1. Carefully study all of the menorahs. Which is your favorite?
2. Look at all of the different colored Hanukkah candles. Which do you like the best?
3. Pick a menorah and try placing the candles in it.
4. The Shammash candle is different from all of the other candles. Can you find where the Shammash will go in the menorah?
5. Pretend to use the Shammash to light all of the other candles in the menorah.
6. Make your own menorah out of play dough: roll the dough into a snake shape and place candles in the dough. Make a special holder for the Shammash candle.



Play with Dreidel

Directions

1. Try to spin the dreidels. Can you catch a spinning dreidel?
2. See how many dreidels you can get spinning at once.
3. Have children find their favorite one.
4. Place 3 cups in front of you upside down. Place a dreidel under one of the cups and rearrange the order of the cups. See if children can find the cup hiding the dreidel.



Lots of Latkes

Directions

1. Cut out oval shapes from the brown paper and have children toss the paper latkes into a frying pan.
2. See how many latkes can comfortably fit in the frying pan.
3. After playing with the fake latkes, have children try a taste of the homemade or store-bought latkes.



Read the story

Story Props

- Pillow Case
- Menorah
- Hanukkah candles
- Small Jars of oil (purchased online at Judaica.com)
- Dreidel
- Frozen Potato Latkes, sealed in a plastic bag
- Chocolate Hanukkah gelt
- Paper cut-out of a menorah
- 9 paper candles
- Paper flames (optional)
- Flannel board (optional)

Intro Words

*I hope that you all had fun exploring our very special Hanukkah objects. By now, I bet that you are well on your way to becoming Hanukkah experts. Today, we are going to read a book called **Hanukkah Lights** which will show us many different ways to celebrate Hanukkah. Before we begin our reading, I'd like to talk about some of the objects that will appear in our book. Let's take a look at the items in my pillow case and see if we can share what we know about each one:*

Here I have a menorah. What do we put in these menorahs? Yes, candles. Where do we put the candles? In the spaces or holes that are provided. (Put in one candle-The first candle should go into the space on the menorah which would be on the far right if you were facing the menorah).

There is one space on this menorah for one very special candle that has a very important job. It lights all of the other candles. Do you know what that candle is called and where it goes? (Place the Shammash in its proper place). Do you know how many nights we celebrate Hanukkah for? Let's count the candle spaces and see. Each night we light one more candle. On Hanukkah, some people use oil rather than candles to light their menorahs. People use oil in their menorahs to commemorate one of the major miracles of Hanukkah-The miracle that oil which should have lasted for only one day burned for 8 days.

Also take the dreidel, latkes, and chocolate gelt out of the pillow case and show them to the children.

Now that we've taken a look at all of these special Hanukkah objects, I think that we're ready to read our story. I wonder how many of these objects we will find in our book.

Encourage Participation

- Hold up the enlarged pages from the book, reading and showing the pictures one at a time. As each page is displayed, ask the children, “How many candles do we light on this night of Hanukkah? Count the candles together.
- Place the paper menorah on the felt board. Point to a specific child and ask him/her to come to the flannel board and help you put the appropriate number of candles up on the board.
- Ask another child to use the paper Shammash to light each candle. As the Shammash touches a specific candle, add a flame to the top of that candle.
- Remember to narrate what the Shammash is doing as you light the paper menorah. *Ok, it’s the third night of Hanukkah. Let’s make sure that there are 3 candles in the menorah. Let’s pick up our special helper candle the Shammash. Let’s watch as that Shammash lights the candles.* Remove the flames before displaying the next menorah in the book.
- Create hand motions and facial gestures to go along with several of the book’s pages (blow on the latkes before pretending to eat them, etc.)
- As you reach the last page ask:
Can you tell what time of day it is? On Hanukkah, we place our menorah in the window because we want everyone who walks by our house to know that it is Hanukkah. When we display our menorahs in the window we are performing a special mitzvah called “Pirsum Ha’nes”. We are publicizing the miracle of Hanukkah and letting everyone know just how special Hanukkah is.



Follow Up activities and resources

Make a Menorah Safety Lighter

Intro Words

Hanukkah is a very fun and special holiday. There are so many things to do on Hanukkah and so many good foods to eat. Can you tell me a few things that you look forward to doing on Hanukkah? However, we have to be very careful when we use the Shammash. Today, we're going to make something which you will be able to use every night of Hanukkah. It's called a menorah safety lighter and you can use this lighter to help Mom, Dad, or the other grown-ups in the house light the menorah. When we light the menorah, we use matches and fire. Fire is very hot and very dangerous. We must never touch fire or touch burning candles. If we can't touch a burning candle, how will we be able to help light our menorah? The menorah safety lighter helps to keep our hands and fingers far away from the fire. But remember, we can only use this safety lighter when a grown-up is with us and is helping us.



Directions

1. Display the lighting stick and demonstrate how we can use this menorah safety lighter to help light the candles.
2. Parent and child should select a paint stirrer to decorate.
3. Children can decorate their lighting stick in several different ways:
 - They may paint their stirrer and then use a shaker to sprinkle glitter on top
 - They may decorate a foil-covered paint stirrer by attaching stickers to the foil
 - They may spread glue onto the foil and then place tissue paper shapes on top of the glue. Once the tissue paper is in place, spread an additional layer of glue on top of the shapes

Extra Activities

Spin like A Dreidel

Encourage participants to spin like a dreidel as the group leader sings dreidel-related songs. Ask participants to drop to the floor, or topple over whenever the group leader says “stop.”

Melting Candles

Participants should clasp their hands together and raise them above their heads. As the candles burn, the children gently bend and slowly lower themselves to the floor.

Flashlight Games

Remind participants that the holiday of Hanukkah is all about light. On Hanukkah, we light the menorah to remind us of miracles, of a small flame lasting a long time. Explain to the children that because we have so much light in our homes during Hanukkah, we are now going to play some games with light. Shine a flashlight on the floor, encourage children to run towards and jump on any light spots that come near them. Attach a sheet to a wall. Shine a bright light in front of the sheet. Invite children to jump, dance, and make shadows on the wall.

Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

Prepare a Hanukkah booklet for the families to take home. Ideally, the booklet should include instructions and pictures depicting how to light a menorah, a copy of the blessings for lighting the candles, directions for playing the dreidel game, a recipe for latkes, and a list of websites providing families with additional information on Hanukkah.

Let parents know of upcoming events. Be sure to give them a list of additional family Hanukkah celebrations which will be occurring within the community.

PJ Library Hanukkah page

<http://www.pjlibrary.org/parents-and-families/reading-tips-and-resources/jewish-holidays/hanukkah.aspx>

Hanukkah Blessings and recordings

http://urj.org/feeds/?syspage=article&item_id=3256

http://www.interfaithfamily.com/holidays/hanukkah_and_christmas/Lighting_the_Hanukkah_Menorah.shtml