

Making the Most of PJ Goes to School

Think outside your bookshelf! PJ Goes to School is so much more than a gift of free books each month. We encourage you to use the books as tools to accomplish your goals for enriching the Jewish content of your school. This checklist will help you make a plan for making the most of these resources so that you can engage everyone in your school community in conversation about Jewish values.

- Place PJ Goes to School signage and PJ Library information in public areas.
Everybody loves PJ Library. It is a brand people know and trust. Let everyone know you are participating in this popular program.
- Get the whole school community involved.
Create a shared language of Jewish values with children, families, staff, and board members.
- Start a conversation with families at every opportunity.
Share the books and values you are teaching and invite families to contribute their ideas. Reach out before, during, and after you read the books.
- Provide opportunities for family engagement in the lobby or entrance.
Make it easy for families to partner with you by placing books and inviting materials where families gather.
- Make PJ Library books/Jewish books and materials available throughout the classroom.
Connect the books to all subjects and make Jewish living and learning a part of every day.
- Ensure your reading areas are inviting and accessible.
Provide a cozy spot where children learn to love reading. Choose enticing books and change them according to children's interests. Mix Jewish and secular books.
- Display all books neatly in bookshelves and treat them with respect.
Jews are often affectionately called the "people of the book." Enlist children's help in showing appreciation, care, and repair of books.
- Enrich classroom centers with materials and activities that reflect Jewish values.
Provoke curiosity with concrete objects that relate to topics and values addressed in the books.
- Include books and Jewish values in documentation of the children's experiences.
As you tell the story of what children are doing in the classroom, add the titles of the books you've read and the Jewish values children are learning.
- Involve the organization's staff, board, and lay leadership in PJGtS.
Enable everyone who supports your school to boast about, and contribute to, the depth of Jewish learning in your community.