



Global Day Family Curriculum with PJ Library
May 17, 2010

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What is The PJ Library?

The PJ Library is a four year-old family engagement program whose goal is to strengthen the identity of Jewish families. The PJ Library has more than 125 communities and send out approximately 60,000 books a month. Their goal is also to connect families with each other, with the Jewish community and with Jewish resources.

They also provide book based lesson plans. Every book that a family receives has a reading guide for parents which extracts values from the book, puts the book into context, helps families discuss the book and sometimes provides an activity.

The Global Day—The PJ Library Connection:

The PJ Library is a wonderful partner for working on a curriculum that will allow families to participate in the Global Day. All registered communities, whether they are a PJ community or not will have access to the curriculum.

Book Based Curriculum:

The PJ Library wanted to create a curriculum to help instructors and parents teach the books. Educators can use their curriculum and add their own material, and others can use only what is provided.

The PJ Library Book Selections for the Global Day:

Whether or not you are a PJ community, you will have access to the curriculum. The curriculum will provide one to two activities along with the reading of the book to keep families engaged.

Bagels From Benny: theme of God. About a boy who works for his grandfather in a bagel shop. Whenever a customer thanked his grandfather, the grandfather reminds them that they should be thanking God. The boy overheard this everyday when he was with his grandfather and the boy learns about gratitude and begins to bring the bagels to the synagogue and a poor man thinks they came from God.

Good Night Sh'ma: Theme of Prayer. This curriculum teaches children to keep a journal.

Nachshon who was Afraid to Swim: The book is a take on the Nachson Midrash as the Jews were standing at the sea of reeds. Nachson was the man who was brave enough to jump into the sea. The book is about a boy who was afraid to swim, but he overcame his fears and became a leader. The curriculum allows families to learn how to tell their story and become leaders. The activity can take place in a pool, a gym, a drum circle or any environment which allows for people to take risks and become leaders.

Joseph had a Little Overcoat: The book is about Joseph who didn't want to throw away his ripped coat, so he recycled it. After the book participants can take something that looks like junk and recycle it to create something new.

When I First Held You: This book is about the love between parents and their children. It teaches that no matter what is going on in life, love is a precious gift. The activity focuses more on a couple becoming a family and how to find a new circle of friends.

All of the books are geared to different age groups.

The Global Day Family Component: Ideas for Incorporating the Family Curriculum into your Global Day Event:

You can reorganize any of the curriculum to make it appropriate for religious school.

Nachshon is an example of a book that you can do in a regular room, but it can also take place in the local kids gym with an environment for children and parents to take leaps. Additionally, you can hold the program outdoors or at a swimming pool. Some of the classes can also be held as pre-Global Day programming.

The flyer for *Bone Button Borscht* explained the value of the book on the flyer. There was a catch phrase which focused more on the values learned from the book rather than the organizers of the event. This is a good way to promote the program because participants will understand the importance of the learning.

Amy Hilzman-Paquette-Seattle:

Q: When will the curriculum be ready?

A: All Curricula should be completed within the next week or two and by the middle or end of June, everything, including the adult curriculum, should be ready.

Wendy Rosenfeld-Allentown:

Q: They want to hold programs for kids of different age groups. How should the age groups be divided?

A: Communities should subdivide the program base on the age level of the book. PJ Library provides notes in the curriculum on what to do if you have a range of ages present.

Jennifer Meyers-Newport News:

Q: Will PJ Library provide marketing material for any of the programs?

A: PJ Library will check into it. Judi can send out the PDF of the flyer she showed, but she doesn't have other flyers. They will work on a tagline for each curriculum for communities to use for flyers.

Note: This program is a good opportunity for communities to reach out to your PJ Library professional.