

Hebrew & Me: OVERVIEW

Phonetic Introduction Phase (Lessons 1-16)

-Children learn new letters best when reading words that they know and can confidently recognize. If they don't recognize the word they are sounding out, then they know they have read it incorrectly and have the opportunity to naturally self-correct. Therefore, zero words that the child doesn't know will be included in the phonetic introduction phase. English-speaking children know English. Hebrew vocabulary in the majority of children is insufficient for the phonetic-recognition phase, so English words translated into Hebrew letter phonetics will be used, mixed with real Hebrew words as vocabulary is introduced beginning in Lesson 3, phasing in more real Hebrew and less English week by week, until all English-in-Hebrew is phased out after Lesson 16.

-Language acquisition is built-in to the human brain, but requires a combination of verbal, visual, tactile, and applied techniques to truly master and remember a letter shape+sound: hearing and saying the letter sound (verbal), tracing the letter shape (tactile), seeing the letter written up on the board (visual), and applying the letter into phonetic writing (applied) in phonetic word building games and activities.

Hebrew and Me Phase (Lessons 17-20)

-Children love projects related to themselves: their name, why they are special, and what they care about the most. The Hebrew Name Project is a multi-week focal project with a goal of connecting children to feel positively about Hebrew. This is accomplished by learning their Hebrew name, learning how to spell and write their own Hebrew name, what it means, why they have it, and how their Hebrew name fits into their family story. They will make (over several weeks) a special poster all about themselves, with their Hebrew name, with favorite words in Hebrew that they want to learn (such as, a kid obsessed with dragons can learn and write the word dragon (דִּרְקוֹן) on their poster in Hebrew). This project helps to foster pride and self-identity in a way that connects the child to the Hebrew language.

Hebrew and Familiar Songs and Prayers (Lessons 21-26)

-This phase continues building Hebrew vocabulary knowledge, introduces essential grammar aspects related to basic decoding, and introduces friendly and familiar Hebrew reading (Shema, Hinei Ma Tov, Ma'ariv Aravim, Four Questions, Shehecheyanu and Shabbat Blessings). Students begin decoding these most-familiar Hebrew prayers and songs where the student is now phonetic reading unknown Hebrew words and no longer able to recognize every word as they read.

-As students read, decode, and analyze familiar texts they will be building comfort and confidence with sounding out Hebrew words that they do not know, while practicing finding and identifying familiar words within a larger text.

Hebrew & Me: LESSON OUTLINE

Lesson	Letters	Vowels	Concepts	Vocabulary
1	ג ב ד ש	־: ַ ָ -	Reading direction and zig-zag reading pattern.	
2	ל ב ש	׃ ם	Noticing details between similar letters.	
3	מ ם	׃	Some letters have a special final form.	שָׁמַשׁ <i>shamash</i>
4	ח ה ר		Unique sounds: clearing-your-throat sound.	חֶלֶה <i>challah</i>
5	ו	וּ וֹ	Identifying in-line vowels and Vav.	שְׁלוֹם <i>shalom</i>
6	ק א ע		Silent letters.	אֶחָד <i>echad</i> שְׁבוּעַ <i>shavuah</i>
7	ט ס		General practice.	טוֹב <i>tov</i>
8		׃	Shva's unique role in words.	הַבְּדִלָּה <i>havdallah</i> שְׁמַע <i>shema</i>
9	צ ץ		Unique sounds: TZ.	אֶרֶץ <i>aretz</i> מִצְוָה <i>mitzvah</i> צְדָקָה <i>tzedakah</i>
10	נ ן	׃׃	General practice.	נֵר <i>ner</i> בּוֹרָא <i>borei</i>
11	ת		General practice.	שַׁבָּת <i>shabbat</i> תּוֹרָה <i>torah</i>
12	י ז		Vowel + Yud sound blends in words.	מְזוּזָה <i>mezuzah</i> יָד <i>yad</i> יִשְׂרָאֵל <i>Yisrael</i>
13	כ ך	׃׃	General practice.	חֲנֻכָּה <i>chanukkah</i> כָּלֶם <i>kulam</i> בְּרוּךְ <i>baruch</i> מַלְכוּתוֹ <i>malchuto</i>
14	פ פּ	׃׃	General practice.	גָּפוֹ <i>gafen</i> אֶפִיקוֹמָן <i>afikoman</i> פֶּסַח <i>pesach</i>
15		אֲ	Tactics for identifying this tricky vowel.	מִצְוֹת <i>mitzvot</i> אֱלֹהֵי <i>elohei</i> חוֹשֶׁעַח <i>choshech</i>
16			Exception words.	אֲדוֹנָי ה' <i>Adonai</i> שָׁמַע <i>sameach</i> כֹּל <i>kol</i> כֹּל <i>chol</i> יְהוָה
17			Name Project #1: What is a Hebrew name?	בַּת <i>bat</i> בֵּן <i>ben</i> מִבֵּית <i>mibeit</i>
18			Name Project #2	
19			Name Project #3	
20			Name Project #4	
21			Hebrew Reading: Plural Words, Adjectives, Dagesh	
22			Hebrew Reading: Prefixes and Suffixes	
23			Hebrew Reading: Decoding Toolkit, Read/Decode/Analyze	R/D/A Available Texts: -Shabbat Wine Blessing -Shabbat Candle Blessing -Shabbat Challah Blessing -Passover Four Questions -Shema -Shehecheyanu -Hinei Ma Tov -Ma'ariv Aravim (Roll into Dark)
24			Hebrew Reading: Read/Decode/Analyze	
25			Hebrew Reading: Read/Decode/Analyze	
26			Hebrew Reading: Read/Decode/Analyze	