

Pesach for Kids

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Pesach is an exciting Yom Tov for children, the highlight of which is the Seder. Often children spend weeks learning about the Yom Tov and preparing for the Seder, The order of the events at the Seder demonstrates that the focus of the Seder is the children, and teaches that it is important to involve them as much as possible during the night. This presentation offers creative ideas and suggestions which relate to specific texts from the Haggadah. In addition there are several general ideas for you to use during any part of the Seder. Some of the activities and ideas are geared towards younger children, while others are primarily for older children. Please feel free to choose any or all of these ideas that you feel is appropriate for your family's dynamics and needs. Most of all- Enjoy!

Kadesh Urchatz

Each child could prepare in advance a decorated sign with the name of each "Siman" on it, and stand up and announce the parts of the Seder as they are reached.

Ha Lachma Ania

The main subject is the idea of becoming free, that of Geula and Hatzala. Your family can have a discussion in which each person tells a story about a difficult situation that they encountered and how they experienced their own personal "Hatzala and Geula." Younger children can also participate and tell stories about their own experiences.

Ma Nishtana

As an introduction to this part of the Four Questions, the leader of the Seder could announce that the goal of this night is to ask as many question as you can, even if you do not know the answers. The child who asks the most questions could win a prize.

Avadim Hayinu Leparo Bemizraim

The children could dress in old dirty clothes, put boxes (with stones) on their back and pretend that they are slaves in Egypt. They could walk with very slowly, crying and screaming while reading the text of "Avadim hainu leparo bemizraim." One of the actresses can tell all the guests

Adapted from the Haggadah "Lemaan Haseder Hatov"
by Rabbi Shai Piron, Rosh Yeshivat Hesder, Petach Tikvah

about the evil decrees issued to the Jewish people when they were slaves. They could also discuss rules or modern day occurrences that enslave us.

Aseret Hamakot

1. Before the Seder it would be fun to prepare props for the Makot:

- Tzfardea- buy a lot of plastic frogs and during this part the kids will throw the frogs
- Barad- buy ping pong balls.
- Arbe- to buy plastic locusts
- Choshech- buy sunglasses for all the guests at the table.

2. Pantomime- Each child or adult could act out one of the Makot without words while everyone tries to guess which Makot it is.

Keriat Yam Suf

Before Pesach one could buy blue fabric or one could use any blue fabrics or blankets in the house. The adults could stand in two lines and create waves of the sea with the fabric. When the children go through the sea as Bnei Yisroel it will “split” into two parts like Kriat Yam Suf. They will then be the Egyptians chasing Jews and try to cross the Yam Suf, but to no avail. The adults will close up the sea by returning all of the fabric to the center.

Hallel

Before starting Hallel you lead a discussion about “Hakarat Hatov”. Each person could share a good thing that happened to him recently, and express his gratitude to Hashem. Younger children can also participate on their own level.

Echad Mi Yodea

Every person could get a sign with a number, which he will hold up when the number is mentioned in the song. This is a great “wake up” activity!

Chad Gadia

While singing this song, people can act out the voices of the animals when they are mentioned.

General Ideas

1. Before Yom Tov, one can make sheets with the name of a topic which relates to the Seder, such as: פרעה, אליהו הנביא, הבן החכם, מרור, חרות, מצה, חמץ, צפרדע, ערוב, וכדומה. During the Seder you can tie it on the head of one of the participants who needs to ask yes-or-no questions to figure out who or what he is.

2. Tell parts of the story with mistakes and give the kids an opportunity to correct you (for example: Antiochus instead of Pharoh).

3. Suggestions for questions during the Seder:

- Why do we eat Matzah on Pesach?
- Who are the four sons?
- How many cups of wine or grape juice do you drink during the Seder?
- Why do we drink four cups of wine?
- What is the second Maror?
- Why do we put the Maror in the Charoset?
- What does the Zeroa remind us of?
- Can you say the 10 Makot in one breath?
- Try to say 10 Makot backwards- starting with Makat Bechorot.
- What is קמחא דפסחא?

4. What are the following numbers related to?

3,4,10,11,40,70,250

5. How many animals you can find in the Hagada?

Answer: מקנה, סוסים, חמורים, גמלים, צפרדע, כינים, ערוב (חיות רעות), ארבה, איילים, כפירים, דבורים (מתוך ההלל), אריות

6. Ask the older kids to prepare in advance a news report about the 10 Makot and Keriat Yam Suf. During the report they can interview people like Pharoh, Moshe, Aharon etc.

פסח כשר ושמח and GOOD LUCK