

Youth & Religious School

- Provide [disability awareness activities](#) in your early childhood centers, religious schools and youth groups for students, staff and parents (Resource Library of materials is available)
- Share a film and follow up discussion related to Jewish Inclusion to the community, religious school or parents. List of suggested films can be found [HERE](#).
- Since children and teens with disabilities are often targets for bullying, JDAIM as an opportunity to address the issue of bullying with youth group members. One resource to consider is the [Bully Project](#).
- Mental health awareness is so important today. Consider an awareness activity, video, story or lesson to explore how we care for ourselves, the mental health of our family, friends, and community.
- [Matan](#) and [Jewish Learning Venture](#) have each created lesson plans to use in the classroom for Kindergarten through High School.

Awareness & Education

- Use the [JDAIM logo](#) on your website and on all printed materials during February
- Create a JDAIM 2024 Book Group. List of suggested books can be found [HERE](#).
- Provide printed resource information about programs in your congregation and the greater community that are inclusive of individuals with disabilities
- Promote your congregation's inclusion practices by creating an inclusionary mission statement about your congregation. This statement can be included in all membership packets, mailings, on your website and e-blasts.
- Give a presentation at your congregation's February board meeting sharing stories about students with special needs and how inclusion benefits all students.
- Program with an Inclusive Eye - use "People First" & inclusive language on all synagogue publications
- Above all, share your stories of success, the fruits of your work that give people hope that they can belong.

Learning

- Dedicate a Shabbat worship service to inclusion & the contributions of children and adults who have disabilities and focus Torah study or d'var Torah on text that informs us of Jewish values for inclusion.
- Establish an accessibility/inclusion committee for your congregation to address the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families on an ongoing basis
- Offer live captioning for virtual programs in your community through NJ Relay or CapTel.
- Train greeters/ushers to facilitate for individuals with disabilities and to be able to direct them to the proper materials (i.e. Large print siddur, hearing modifications, Braille siddur, accessible seating)
- Offer a [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) program to parents and educators.
- Assess existing programs and evaluate their accessibility and consider becoming an ABLE Awarded Congregation ([Synagogue Self-Assessment- How Inclusive Are We?](#))
- Share a film and follow up discussion related to Jewish Inclusion to the community, religious school or families. List of suggested films can be found [HERE](#).
- Host a guest speaker (professional in the field, parent or sibling of or individual with a disability) to speak about their experiences with inclusion

For more information please contact Rebecca Wanatick, Director, Disability Inclusion & Belonging (973) 929-3129, rwanatick@jfedgmw.org or www.jfedgmw.org/disability