

TU B'SHEVAT

110

Shivat HaMinim - Seven Species

Day 1

Circle time: Sing "Happy Birthday" to the trees, flowers, and plants. Introduce the Seven Species: wheat, barley, figs, dates, grapes, olives and pomegranates. Try to bring in a variety for the children to taste. Graph the results of the children's preferences on a large sheet of paper and display.

Naturalistic:

- Bring live worms (purchase at local pet shop) into the classroom during the entire unit. Store them in a covered container with top soil. Provide magnifying glasses for children to observe them and explain their role in helping plants grow.
- Plant grass heads using grass seeds, knee-hi's, and potting soil. Pour 1 teaspoon of grass seeds into the toe of the stockings, add one cup of soil, tie the top with a rubber band and place the stuffed stocking in a bowl. Saturate the "plant" with water, leaving it to soak overnight. Once dry, decorate with a funny face using markers or paint. Water it daily and it should begin to grow within 5-7 days. Have fun trimming its hair as the grass grows.



Linguistic:

- Hang a pocket chart on the wall with seven pockets, each depicting the picture and word of one of the Seven Species. Obtain samples of each specie (wheat and barley can be purchased from a dried flower store) and place each one in a Ziploc bag. Let the children insert the fruit samples in the appropriate pockets on the chart.

Interpersonal:

- Set up a garden center or flower shop in the dramatic play area. Provide gardening tools, rakes, cash registers, silk flowers, watering cans, gardening gloves and wrapping paper to wrap the flowers.

TU B'SHEVAT

111

Shivat HaMinim - Seven Species

Day 2

Circle time: Sing A Tiny Little Seed.

A Tiny Little Seed

TTTO: The Eensy Weensy Spider

A tiny little seed is planted in the ground,
Hashem sends the sun shining brightly down,
Down comes the rain and as we all know,
The tiny little seed begins to grow and grow.

Naturalistic:

- *Celery stalk experiment.* Place four stalks of celery into four separate cups with different colored water. Observe as the water travels up the celery plant and colors the stalk over time. You can also do this with white flowers, and they will become colored.

Linguistic:

- Show the children four cards depicting different flower parts: root, stem, leaf, and petal. You can also add the word below the diagram. Give a description of one of these parts and the children should guess which flower part you are referring to.

Spatial:

- *Coffee-filter flowers.* Fold a coffee filter in half, three times to form a triangular shape. Using eyedroppers and liquid water colors (can be purchased at a school supply store), let the children design patterns on the triangular shape. Unfold the filter and once dry, attach a pipe-cleaner stem. Make a bouquet!



Fruit Graphs

TU B'SHEVAT

112

Shivat HaMinim - Seven Species

Day 3

Circle time: Read “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein. Brainstorm how many types of trees the children can list.

Naturalistic:

- During your walk outside, make tree rubbings with chubby crayons and thin typing or tracing paper.

Mathematical:

- Use Trix cereal or other fruit shaped cereal to graph the varying amounts of the fruit shapes. Draw a bar chart with fruit shapes below and the children can tally the totals by coloring the squares with crayons.

Spatial:

- *Fruit stamp painting.* Do stamp paintings with exotic fruits such as star-fruit or dates. Dip them into paints, design prints and label. (Use a fork to steady the fruits while painting.)

Day 4

Circle time: Sing “Tu B'shvat HigiyaH”.

Tu B'shvat HigiyaH
Tu B'shvat HigiyaH,
Chag Lailanot, (2x)
Tu B'shvat is here,
New Year for the trees (2x).

Linguistic:

- Write a class book titled “Growing Vegetable Soup” or “Dirt Made my Lunch.” Each child should draw one Tu B'shvat fruit and glue seeds onto a page. They can dictate stories about their fruit. Staple the pages together and read the book.

Spatial:

- *Handprint foliage.* Using fingerpaints, let the children stamp handprints. Once dry, the children can cut out the prints and arrange them on a big, painted tree trunk to form leafy foliage. You can ask the parents to add their handprints to the tree when they bring their child to school.

Shivat HaMinim - Seven Species

Day 5

Circle time: Invite a gardener to speak to the children. Bury carrots in a flower pot filled with soil, leaving only the green shoots visible, and the children can help the "gardener" pick the carrots.

Mathematical:

- Compare the seeds of peas, green beans, peanuts, apples, watermelon, and grapefruits. Have the children guess how many seeds each fruit contains and count them.

Spatial:

- *Yarn flower pots.* Decorate flower pots by covering with glue and wrapping yarn around the pot.

Interpersonal:

- Make a "Dirt and Worms Treat." Crush chocolate sandwich cookies in ziplock bags and add gummy worms candies. Enjoy!

