Machon Peulat Erev – Disability in the Media

**Goal**: This peulah’s goal is to celebrate everyone’s differences, after completing this activity each chanich(a) should leave embracing what makes each of them unique. Amitzim is an edah whose differences are more obvious than some of ours. The chanichim should not only learn to embrace their own differences but accept and appreciate everyone for theirs, especially amitzim. When the chanichim learn to love themselves and those around them, everyone will be more comfortable in camp’s environment and everyone’s camp experience will be enhanced.

**Dinner before Peulat Erev**:

Each madrich(a) will place a sticker on a chanich(a)’s forehead at lunch. The stickers will tell everyone who looks at them how to treat them. Make sure that some of the chanichim receive blank stickers.

* Talk to me like I can’t hear well
* Talk to me like you can’t understand a word I am saying
* Talk to me with hand motions
* Don’t look at me while you talk to me
* Constantly reassure me that everything I am saying and doing is great
* Every time I say something change the topic and talk about something else
* Treat me like you are afraid of me
* Always touch my shoulder when you are talking to me
* Every time you talk to me come very close to my face
* Repeat everything 2 times to me
* Talk to me REALLY slowly

It is important that the stickers are given to the chanichim without explanation; some of them will guess it is for Amitzim Sensitivity but that shouldn’t be the focus of the activity.

**Free time before Peulat Erev**:

Each madrich(a) will give each chanich(a) a card that will explain to them how they need to act. Throughout the meal they will act according to the card. Make sure that some of the chanichim receive blank stickers. Remember which chanichim received blank stickers the meal before and ensure that they do not receive blank ones again.

AGAIN, It is important that the cards are given to the chanichim without explanation, some of them will guess it is for Amitzim Sensitivity but that shouldn’t be the focus of the activity.

* Don’t speak unless you are told to do so by someone three times
* Don’t make eye contact with anyone ever
* Every time someone says “okay” say “yeehaw”
* Only speak when someone is holding your hand
* Do not speak unless someone gives you a hug first
* Repeat everything you say twice
* Stand up and spin in a circle before you speak
* Stand up and walk away from the group every two minutes
* When more than one person is talking cover your ears
* Clap your hands if you want to speak
* Repeat everything that the person sitting to your right says

**After Dinner:**

In Beit am Bet the chanichim will break into discussion groups and talk about how they felt during lunch and dinner.

**Discussion Questions (15-20 minutes):**

* **Dinner**
  + Start off with Name & the sticker they had at lunch
  + Was it hard to get through the meal with people treating you they way they did?
  + Was it ever frustrating at times? Explain.
  + How did you feel when people treated you according to the LABEL that was put on your head?
    - Relate this to Amitzim. Simply being in Amitzim gives the chanich(a) a label, and people automatically treat them differently. They probably feel similarly to what the campers are saying, but they don’t have the privilege of being able to take the sticker off after lunch.
* **Free Time**
  + State the card you received
  + Was it hard getting through the meal when you HAD to act a certain way?
  + Did anyone become annoyed with you throughout the meal/Did you get annoyed with anyone throughout the meal?
  + Did you follow your card’s rule for the whole time? Did you ever want to stop because it was too much of a hassle?
    - Relate this back to Amitzim, chanichim in Amiztzim do not have the option to just stop following the card, they have to live with their unique characteristics every day.
* **Regarding both activities**
  + How do you think this meal/free time went compared to other meals?
  + Did you like it more or less than a typical meal/Free time at camp?
  + Did the card or sticker prevent you from accomplishing anything throughout the meal

**Clips (10 minutes)**

The chanichim will come together as one group in front of the Moadon Tikvah where a projector and speakers will be set up. We will watch clips depicting people with special needs from various popular TV shows. After we watch the clips the chanichim will break into **tents**, discuss the clips, and begin the next activity.

* Max from Parenthood - season 3, episode 9 – 0:46-1:40
* Glee – Season1, Episode 9: 27:58-29:15
* Walt Jr. from Breaking Bad – Season 1, Episode 1: 37.26-30.05
* Dr. Dixon from Grey’s Anatomy – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoBegwXrHRU&list=PLJ3FchixeUUzfA-KF27eC4vw2RzDd9qNx&index=8

**Clip Discussion Questions (10-15 minutes)**

* Did you think that the clips realistically depicted how people with special needs behave? Explain.
  + Try and get the chanichim to recall instances at school or in public in which they’ve seen a similar situation play out.
* Did you think that the clips realistically depicted how society interacts with people who have special needs?
* Should actors portray people with special needs or should the roles be played exclusively by people who actually have special needs
  + Bring up movies like Forrest Gump, I am Sam, The Ringer, Rain Man etc.

**Personal Label**

* Go around and ask each chanich(a) something that makes them unique or different, be encouraging after each difference is stated. i.e. snaps, claps, flaps OH MY
* Go around the circle a second time, and ask the chanichim to state a label they think they’ve been given and been treated differently because of

**Closing**

* Show Max’s speech - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywnHFLpMVIo&list=PLJ3FchixeUUzfA-KF27eC4vw2RzDd9qNx&index=9
* Tali and Tikvah Staff will speak about Ezra, Amitzim, and the opportunities we have for inclusion this summer.
* **Ezra Panel:** 2-3 Ezra Staff members will come at the end to speak about what it is like to have a disability and answer questions.

Prince of Egypt:

16-17:35

39 minutes