

Amitzim Celebrating Differences Peulat Erev

Goal: Develop sensitivity to those with differences in our community. To understand what it may feel like to have a disability, and realize that we must work together to support everyone in our community. Think about ways to appreciate strengths rather than weaknesses. Apply this to camp.

Duration: 1 hr and 15 min

Materials:

- Peulah outlines for each station – 10 copies
- Group lists
- Print outs of abstract shape (attached) – 20 copies
- Directions for folding a paper airplane (attached) – 20 copies, cut to form half sheets
- Blank paper for airplanes– 200 pages

Description: Campers will be split up into six groups and rotate between three different stations of activities (each station will be duplicated to allow for smaller group sizes). At each station the campers will participate in each activity and have a short discussion. Following the rotations, we will all come together

Station 1: Charades (15 min)

Act out sentences without speaking any words or letters or sign language

- I feel funny
- I need to go to the bathroom
- I want a coke
- I lost my homework
- My foot hurts
- I want a hamburger for lunch
- I am allergic to strawberries
- I hate ketchup.

Discuss:

1. Was it hard to act out a whole sentence without using words?
2. Was it hard to understand what the person acting was trying to say?
3. Raise your hand if you ever felt frustrated during this activity. Why do you think you felt frustrated?
4. Discuss: People communicate in many different ways. Sometimes it can be hard for one person to understand what another person is trying to communicate. We must be patient and work together to make sure that everyone's thoughts and ideas can be shared and valued.

Station 2: Abstract Shape (15 min)

- Break the group up into partners
- Have the partners sit back to back
- One partner describes the abstract shape verbally for the other partner to draw

Discuss:

1. How similar is your drawing to the original?
2. Was it hard to explain the shape using just your words?
3. Was it hard to understand the directions your partner was giving you?
4. What were the problems and what would have helped?
5. Discuss how something that might be clear to one person may be very difficult to understand for someone else. We must be thoughtful in the way that we communicate with our peers to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Station 3: Folding a Paper Airplane (15 min)

At this station the chanichim will learn how to make a paper airplane. Everyone in the group is given a piece of paper.

- Step 1: The group must follow the directions that are read to them. No visual cues are given.
- Step 2: Someone models how to make the airplane. No verbal directions are given.
- Step 3: The directions are written on a piece of paper that they must follow.

Discuss:

1. Raise your hand if you found listening to the directions easiest to follow
2. Raise your hand if you found modeling the easiest to follow
3. Raise your hand if you found reading the directions easiest to follow
4. Notice how not all of the campers found the same way easiest, everyone has weaknesses and strengths
5. Discuss how everyone has different strengths and needs, so it is important to use our strengths and to realize that the method that is easiest for one is most difficult for others. We must support each other so that we can work together to create a strong, supportive community.

Tikvah Talk

- Come back together, and ask the chanichim:
 - What are some things you talked about with your groups?
 - What is Tikvah?
 - What do you think the term “special needs” means?
 - What past experiences have you had with Amitzim or Ezra?
- Tikvah Staff will speak about Ezra, Amitzim, why they think the program is important (both for Amitzim and the rest of camp), and the opportunities we have for inclusion this summer.
- Provide time for questions
- We will provide some practical tips for engaging with Amitzim campers
 - Treat the amitzim campers the way you would want to be treated – use the same tone of voice as you would use with the friends in your bunk.

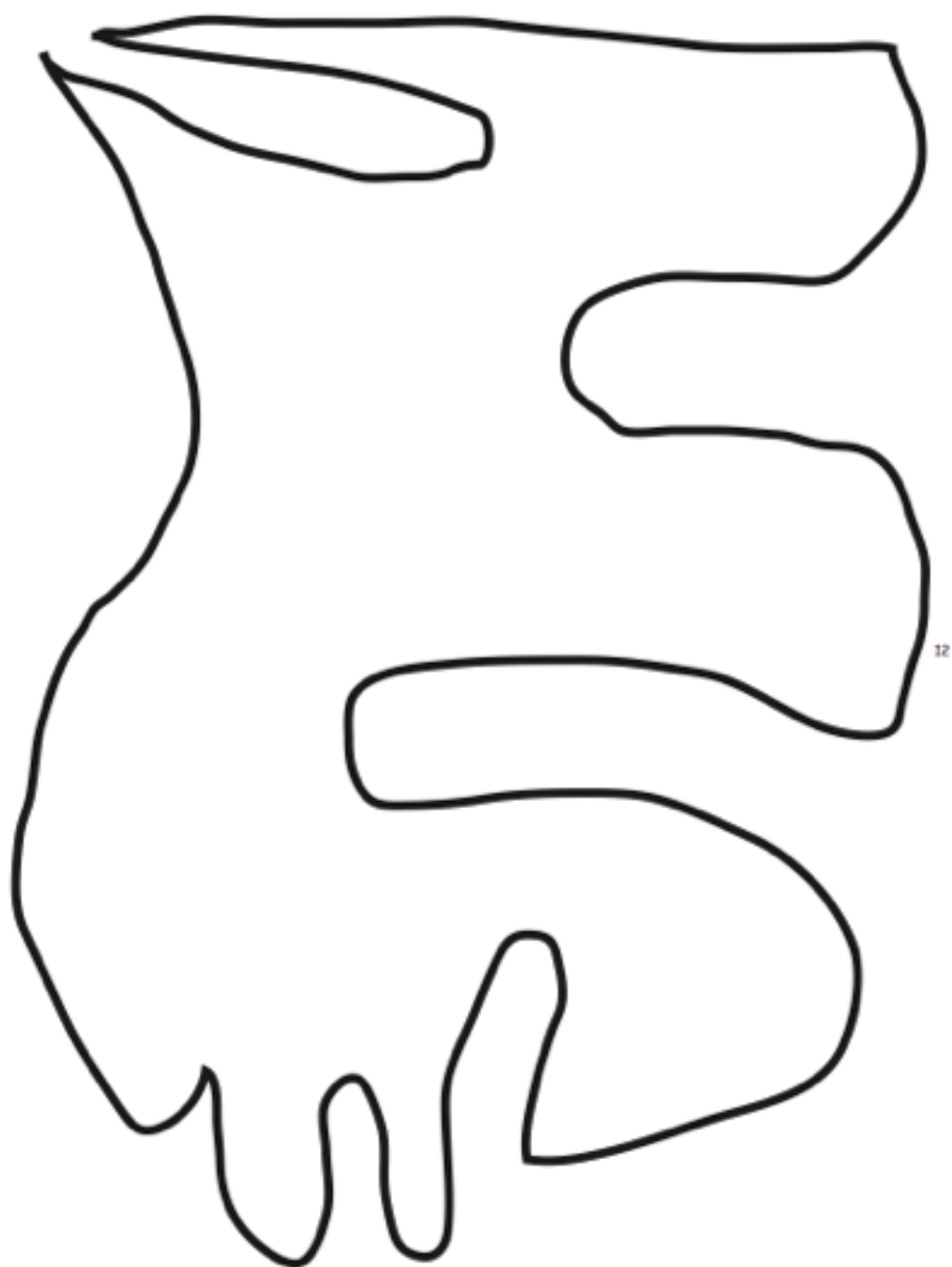
- It might take a little extra time for campers in Amitzim to get things done or said. Rather than rushing them along or trying to help by finishing their sentences, be patient and give them the time to move at their own pace.
- Its okay to offer to help someone, but don't just go ahead, ask first. Or wait for someone to ask you for help.
- Its okay to ask campers to repeat what they said if you are having trouble understanding. If you still don't understand, ask for help.

Quilt

- This year Tikvah staff is creating a Celebrating Differences Quilt
- Break up into tents and discuss as a group how you would like to illustrate the unique differences that each chanich/a in your tent brings to the Ramah community
- Each tent will decorate a square that will then become part of the quilt

Closing - Story of the Cracked Pot

Discuss: How did the water carrier turn the cracked bucket's challenge into something beautiful and useful?



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Directions for Folding a Paper Airplane

1. Fold your sheet of paper in half lengthwise and run a thumbnail along the fold to crease it sharply.
2. Now unfold the paper
3. Fold down the top corners of the paper so that they meet at the crease.
4. Fold along the crease line to form the body of the airplane.
5. Fold the wings down, one at a time.
6. Finally, unfold the wings to produce your paper airplane!

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