Kochavim Inclusion Peulah

**Step in Step out**

Kids stand in a group. “If this statement applies to you, step inside the circle.”

(Hanichim are introduced to the idea of inclusion/why it’s important (edah activity)

1. I prefer chocolate
2. I prefer vanilla
3. I need time alone
4. Sometimes it’s hard for me to not talk
5. I prefer sports
6. I prefer reading
7. I always feel included
8. I sometimes feel left out
9. I’m confident talking in front of people
10. I get nervous talking in front of people
11. I know Hebrew and Jewish stuff pretty well
12. I don’t know much Hebrew or Jewish stuff
13. I can’t always tell what people are thinking or feeling
14. Sometimes I hurt other people’s feelings without meaning to
15. I sometimes feel like other people don’t understand me

**Shoe stacking/lining up**

Split edah into two groups (top bunks and bottom bunks).

Hanichim are told they need to make the longest line using their shoes and they *cannot* speak. Madrichim whisper instructions to hanichim. Half are told to make the longest line with their shoes along the ground, half are told to make the longest line going up to the sky (in a stack).

After they seem frustrated and done *or* one side has prevailed, begin discussion (get in a circle).

How did you feel?

How were other people acting?

If they were being “mean”, “annoying”, etc. lead into the next question

Why might they have been acting that way?

Maybe instead of mean you just needed to be able to talk through it. In this activity you couldn’t but in real life, what might you have wanted to ask?

Explain “Why are you doing [that]?” is a good thing to ask

Sometimes we get into arguments when we don’t understand what another person is doing, so we label it as “mean” or “annoying” or “dumb” or something else that’s not nice.

**I Statements**

A great way to acknowledge that other people do things for reasons we sometimes don’t understand are “I statements”. That’s when you say “I get upset when you touch my stuff without asking” instead of “You’re so annoying, don’t touch my stuff.”

Words not to use are “weird” “dumb” “mean” and “annoying”. These are words that describe people when usually they’re just doing something we don’t understand!

**Choose your own adventure!**

Madrichim should facilitate this, and let your group decide what to do. The end goal is to show that we should be not assume we know what other people’s behavior means.

There’s a new person in your tzrif; their name is Ari. You think Ari seems nice at first, and you decide you want to befriend them. You sit together during aruchat tzaharayim and find out you both love the same hobby.

At aruchat erev, Ari doesn’t seem to want to talk to you. You turn to say something to them and they turn their back towards you. What do you say or do?

Depending on the kids’ response, they can either explain that something got spilled on their project in omanut so they’re upset, or not - if they get to explain, they become friends; if not, they don’t talk again.

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There is a girl in your edah named Cassie. The two of you are pretty good friends. A group of people are talking about your moms and what the best food they make is. One girl says to Cassie, “What’s your favorite thing your mom makes?” Cassie says “I don’t know my mom.” Another girl says “What do you mean you don’t know your mom? Everyone knows their mom!” What do you say or do?

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There is a boy in your edah named Seth. Seth likes mostly activities that girls are “supposed” to like. One day a girl is helping Seth paint his nails while you read next to them. Someone walks by and sees them, and says “Painting nails is for girls! Seth, you’re so weird.” What do you say or do?

**Tap out activity**

(If there’s extra time) Madrichim should act out these skits and then we’ll give kids the opportunity to “tap in” and replace the madrich and hopefully show what the inclusive thing to do in that situation would be.

It’s loud in the chadar and a hanich is trying to get another person’s attention. They don’t hear them saying their name, so they get annoyed when the hanich starts poking them.

A group of hanichim are one-upping each other on vacation spots. “I went to Hawaii!” “Well, I went to Aruba with my family!” One hanich is sitting quietly on the side; their family typically vacations close to home.