

# Jewish Childs Religious Artefact Collection (JD-NCLD)

The main purpose behind the faith child collection is to introduce a child from the faith to your pupils. This idea stems from sessions which the Suffolk County RE team have put into practice and found successful.

Each faith child has been given their own identity and bag full of artefacts that are important to their daily worship and religious way of life. The idea of having a bag is that these artefacts belong to a child who has brought them in to show the class. This provides an awareness that these are someone's possessions and are worthy of care and respect.

As the teacher delivers the artefacts from the bag in a show and tell session, they can describe them and their associated customs and beliefs. Children will have a greater understanding of what it is like to be a child from a different faith.

Say hello to Reuben and examine all the different artefacts that he has brought to show you.



## Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

### **Initial Discussion**

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item is used for and by whom?
- Which religious belief is it used by?
- Does anyone know what it is called? Learn how to pronounce the name.
- What does it represent?
- How might it be used?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

- **What do the objects tell us about the faith?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

## All About the Jewish Artefacts

### **Havdalah Candle**

A specially braided candle featuring multiple wicks. It is traditionally lit during the Jewish Havdalah ceremony to mark the end of Shabbat (the Sabbath) and welcome the new week. When Shabbat comes to an end on Saturday evening the Havdalah candle is lit to mark the occasion.

### **Wooden Dreidel Game Set**

A dreidel is a four-sided wooden spinning top. Each of the four sides displays a Hebrew letter which combined makes a phrase which means, 'A great miracle happened there/here'.

Players start with an equal number of tokens, (this could be anything from raisins, counters or chocolate coins).

Every player puts one token into the central pot (the kitty) and takes their turn to spin the dreidel.

Depending on which letter it lands on, they take or add tokens to the pot.

The game finishes when one player has collected all the tokens.

The game is often played during the festival of Hanakkah.

## Mezuzah Case

A small decorative case often placed on the doorposts of Jewish homes. It serves as a reminder of the Jewish people's covenant with God and their faith. Many Jewish people touch or kiss the mezuzah as they enter or leave the room. It is a useful artefact to explore Jewish homes, traditions and celebrations.

*Use to prompt creative writing about a family placing a mezuzah on the door of their new home.*

## Sedar Plate

Special plate used during Passover (celebration of the story of Exodus). The Sedar plate would be used items such as:

Karpas- green vegetable like parsley to symbolise the spring harvest, dipped in salt water to represent tears.

Charoset- sweet mixture of fruit and nuts representing the mortar used for building bricks when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

Chazeret- bitter herbs such as romaine lettuce and endive to represent the bitterness of slavery.

Beitza- hardboiled egg to remember the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. A symbol of mourning and also to show the Jew's determination to keep their faith.

Maror- bitter herbs like horseradish to symbolise the suffering of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt.

Zeroa- a lamb bone representing the lamb sacrificed and brought to the temple the night before the Israelites left Egypt.

Also, on the table there would be Matzah (flat bread). This symbolises the haste with which the Israelites left Egypt, not having time for the bread to rise.

*Use a template of a Sedar plate and draw or cut and stick symbolic food, along with names and meanings, to the plate.*

## Embroidered Jewish Cap

The cap is called a kippah. It is a small brimless skullcap worn by Jewish people. Its meaning is deeply symbolic and important in a Jewish person's daily life. It shows respect and lets others know that the wearer is part of the Jewish community.

## Hanukkah Cards

Learn about the Jewish festival of lights. The Hebrew word for Hanukkah means dedication. It is an important Jewish festival that lasts for eight nights and usually occurs in December.

*Talk about the importance of light. Enjoy hearing stories about Hanukkah and make Hanukkah cards. Design and write the cards featuring key Jewish symbols such as the menorah, dreidel and the star of David.*

## Jewish Rabbi Puppet

In Hebrew the word 'rabbi' literally translates to 'my teacher'. A Jewish rabbi is a respected teacher and spiritual guide within the Jewish community. Their main job is to study and teach the Torah. Torah is the sacred text in Judaism. It is central to Jewish teachings and practices. The Torah guides Jewish people in their lives. The scripts from the Torah are handwritten onto scrolls. The scrolls are very precious.

## Jewish Story Book

Read the stories to explore the faith and traditions of the Jewish community. Use the Jewish Rabbi Puppet to tell the stories and answer any of the children's questions. Celebrate the richness of Jewish life through storytelling.

### Useful Tips

- *Be sensitive using religious and cultural artefacts and understand any special requirements in handling them.*
- *Avoid creating stereotypes and understand that not all people from the same culture may use the artefact in the same way.*
- *Use the appropriate language to talk about the artefacts.*
- *Teach the children to handle and store the artefacts with respect and sensitivity.*