

Suggested Programming Ideas for Shabbat Shalem Weekend

- Establish an accessibility/inclusion committee for your congregation to address the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families on an ongoing basis
- Involve individuals with disabilities and their families in the planning of policies and programs that will be inclusionary
- Assess existing programs and evaluate their accessibility
- Promote your congregation's inclusion practices by creating an inclusionary mission statement about your congregation. This statement can be included in all membership packets, mailings, on your website and e-blasts.
- Use "people first" language in all synagogue publications and other materials
- Host a guest speaker (professional in the field, parent of individual with a disability) to speak about their experiences with inclusion
- Read a special d'var torah related to inclusion in the Jewish community
- Invite individuals with disabilities and their families to participate in a special Shabbat service dedicated to inclusion
- Dedicate a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat in honor of the community's celebration of inclusion.
- Present a film related to Jewish Inclusion to the community, religious school or parents
- Provide disability awareness programs in your early childhood centers, religious schools and youth groups
- Provide disability awareness and sensitivity training for your staff and parents
- Host a joint program with your youth group program and another in the area serving the needs of children with disabilities
- Volunteer to work as a shadow for a child with a disability in a recreational or religious school program, or as a special friend with the Friendship Circle
- Place second mezzuzot at wheelchair height on doorways throughout the congregation
- Train greeters/ushers to facilitate for individuals with disabilities and to be able to direct them to the proper materials (i.e. Large print siddur, hearing modifications, Braille siddur, accessible seating)
- Provide printed resource information about programs in your congregation and the greater community that are inclusive of individuals with disabilities