



# Disability Inclusion

## JEWISH TEXTS ABOUT INCLUSION

Our Jewish tradition calls us to honor the inherent dignity and worth of every person—regardless of ability or disability. Neurodiversity offers a powerful, inclusive framework that recognizes cognitive and behavioral differences as natural variations of the human experience, not deficits to be fixed. Below are several foundational Jewish texts that reflect this enduring commitment to inclusion as a tenet of Jewish life and learning.

"Every member of the people of Israel is obligated to study Torah— regardless of whether one is rich or poor, physically able or with physical disability." (Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Talmud Torah, 10)

"And God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness...' So God created the human beings in [the divine] image, creating [them] in the image of God." (Genesis 1:26-27)

"But Moses said to the Eternal, 'Please, O Adonai, I have never been good with words, either in times past or now that You have spoken to Your servant; I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' (Exodus 4:10-11)

"All Israel is responsible for one another." (Mishnah Sanhedrin)

"Do not despise any man, and do not discriminate against anything, for there is no man that has not his hour, and there is no thing that has not its place." (Pirkei Avot 4:3)

"If there be among you a person with needs, you shall not harden your heart, but you shall surely open your hand." (Deuteronomy 15:7)

"Speak up for those who cannot speak...speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy." (Proverbs 31:8 )

"You shall not insult the deaf, nor place a stumbling block before the blind." (Leviticus 19:14)

"Do not look at the container, but what is in it" (Pirkei Avot 4:27)

"For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:5)

'Teach a child according to their way." (Proverbs 22:6)



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