



# Welcoming All This High Holy Day Season:

*Practical tips for congregational leaders, clergy, educators, community members, and self-advocates*

## 1. Plan Ahead

Ask: *What might unintentionally exclude someone this season?* Consider these starting questions:

- Do we have sensory kits available to support neurodivergent worshipers?  
Is there a quiet/calming sensory space families can use if they need a break?
- Are entrances physically accessible (push buttons, door holders)?
- Do we offer large-print, e-book, or braille *machzorim*?
- If in our practice, can we project page numbers or visual T'filah for those who benefit from visual aids?
- Are companion guides (e.g. Hartman, Pardes) available for guests unfamiliar with the flow of services?
- Is every part of the service space, including the *bimah*, wheelchair accessible?

→ *Tip: Start with one or two changes, every step makes a difference.*

## 2. Use Respectful, Current Language

Language matters. Many embrace identity-first terms (e.g., “Autistic,” “Dyslexic”) and celebrate neurodiversity as part of humanity. Best practice: ask individuals their preference and offer grace when mistakes happen.

- [Sasone Inclusive Language Guide](#)
- [RespectAbility: 6 Tips for Talking about Disability](#)

## 3. Reduce Stigma Through Conversation

Disability is a normal part of Jewish life. Share personal stories, name the diversity in your community, and remind others that being created *b'Tzelem Elohim* means honoring every person's uniqueness. Consider using these resources:

- [Jewish Texts on Disability Inclusion](#)
- [Guide to Talking About Disabilities with Kids](#)

*Sasone supports access to Jewish life and learning for all – visit [www.sasone.org](http://www.sasone.org) for more resources.*



## 4. Ask, Don't Assume

Build inclusion into registration forms by asking: “Do you need any accommodations to participate fully in our High Holy Day services?” Possible supports include braille or large print prayer books, a calm/quiet space, ASL interpretation, closed captioning, or visual aids. [Sample statement for flyers, websites, or emails:](#)

*We welcome children, teens, and adults with disabilities and mental health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers. If you or your loved one require an accommodation to participate fully, please email (contact) or call (phone number). We will make every attempt to meet your needs.*

For a list of other accommodations and supports specifically for the classroom, check out the [Sasone Common Accommodations for Students](#) resource.

## 5. Access and Share Resources

- **NEW!** Sasone Inclusive Lesson Plans for [Rosh Hashanah](#) and [Yom Kippur](#).
- Order Accessible High Holiday Materials: Order free large print, braille, and audio machzors, calendars, and companion materials at [JBI Library](#).
- Check out inclusive curricula and lesson plans: Visit [Sasone Resources](#), or explore national partners such as Matan, Jewish Gateways, or JKidAccess.

→ **Special Event:** Join Disability Belongs™ on September 2 at 1:00 p.m. ET for [Making Jewish Life Accessible](#), a two-hour virtual convening with short presentations, shared learning, and dialogue on building inclusive Jewish spaces—with ASL interpretation and CART.

Let's work together to create spaces of belonging, not just for the High Holidays, but all year round. Sasone provides support for individuals with disabilities and their families to access Jewish life and learning. For more information, please visit [www.sasone.org](http://www.sasone.org) or email [LindseyL@jewishkc.org](mailto:LindseyL@jewishkc.org).