

Suggested Programming Ideas for Congregations & Schools

Youth & Religious School

- Present a film related to Jewish Inclusion to the community, religious school or parents ([Life Animated](#), [Front of the Class](#), [Mary and Max](#), [Praying with Lior](#) or [Autism the Musical](#))
- Provide disability awareness and sensitivity programs in your early childhood centers, religious schools and youth groups for students, staff and parents (Resource Library of materials is available)
- Since children and teens with disabilities are often targets for bullying, use JDAIM as an opportunity to address the issue of bullying with youth group members
- Mental health awareness is so important today. Consider an awareness activity, video, story or lesson to explore how we care for ourselves, the mental health of our family, friends, and community.
- Matan has created [Lesson Plans](#) to use in the classroom for Kindergarten through High School.

Awareness & Education

- Use the [JDAIM logo](#) on your website and on all printed materials during February
- Create a JDAIM 2020 Book Group
- Provide printed resource information about programs in your congregation and the greater community that are inclusive of individuals with disabilities
- 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.
- Give a presentation at your congregation's February board meeting sharing stories about students with special needs and how inclusion benefits all students.
- Program with an Inclusive Eye - use "People First" & inclusive language on all synagogue publications
- Above all, share your stories of success, the fruits of your work that give people hope that they can belong.

Congregational Learning

- Dedicate a Shabbat worship service to inclusion & the contributions of children and adults who have disabilities.
- 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 & their families in the planning of policies and programs that will be inclusionary
- 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)
- Focus Torah study or d'var Torah on text that informs us of Jewish values for inclusion (www.matankids.org)
- Assess existing programs and evaluate their accessibility and consider becoming an ABLE Awarded Congregation ([Synagogue Self-Assessment- How Inclusive Are We?](#))
- Host a guest speaker (professional in the field, parent or sibling of or individual with a disability) to speak about their experiences with inclusion
- Host an art exhibit or musical performance by an artist who has a disability. The [Wae Center](#) is available to share their artwork with your community.

**For more information about these programs and resources that are available to support them,
please contact Rebecca Wanatick, Manager of Community Inclusion at
(973) 929-3129, rwanatick@jfedgmw.org or www.greatermetrowestABLE.org**