

Preschool. . .The Anshai Torah Preschool Difference

I was listening to a debate about the best way to teach Passover to early childhood students. The Passover story is not necessarily kid-friendly, and it is not the only story we share involving persecution, death and a terrible enemy. The argument started from a colleague questioning the usefulness of retelling the Passover story. She stated that children remember impactful experiences and all the Jewish stories blend together to become irrelevant. In this exchange of views, I cannot pick a side. While I realize that children can confuse Passover with Purim, they will begin to recall the story or celebrate it anew each time it is told. Creating our Passover story with the myriad of acting, dressing in costumes and voices proudly sharing Moses' adventure; I really believe that we are fostering memories. Maybe the story itself will not be the focus of their recollection, but it is difficult to separate Passover from its story. The best part, here at Anshai, is the opportunity we have to build on their experiences throughout Passover. If making matzah pizza or sharing a pesach snack with friends gets filed in their memory bank, we can still celebrate it as a win. As Passover waned, our celebration class (graduating) preformed a brilliant Passover Play. They wrote and designed their own parts. I hope you enjoy the pictures as much as I loved the experience.

