



4 Tips for Using the High Holidays Discovery Kit in Your Community

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At the Jewish Grandparents Network, we are thrilled to offer you resources and ideas for engaging the grandparents in your community — whether their grandchildren live close by or at a distance.

Last year, we launched the Holiday Discovery Kit series, created by Jewish educator and author Jonathan Shmidt Chapman — six interactive guides designed to help grandparents bring the Jewish holidays to life through play with their grandchildren.

Here are tips and suggestions for using and adapting the activities in the [High Holidays Discovery Kit](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/high-holidays-discovery-kit/) (<https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/high-holidays-discovery-kit/>); you can use them as part of a live program or share them with your community to explore at home.

1. Incorporate play-based activities into your multigenerational High Holiday programming this year.

Whether you are leading a multigenerational Rosh Hashanah service or creating a family engagement program for grandparents and grandchildren, you can adapt activities from the kit to make your program more experiential and engaging for everyone.

Here's an example:

Bring the Shofar service alive through movement. On page 4 of the Discovery Kit, you'll find an activity that you can use to activate the sounding of the shofar through embodied play, pairing the number of blasts to a particular kind of movement. You can adapt this for any service or program.

First, review how many blasts go with each part of the shofar service (*t'ki'ah* is one, *sh'varim* is two, *t'ru'ah* is nine). Then, offer a movement type (for example, "spin," "twist," or "jump"). Ask the grandparents and grandchildren to stand. Grandparents can say one of the blast names, and the grandchild must do the movement that number of times. Then, if grandparents are physically able, they can switch! Alternatively, you can call out the direction ("*Sh'varim* Spins!"), and grandparents must do the movements with their grandchildren. This game is a perfect way to encourage both kids and grownups to play as part of a service or program.

2. Print and provide activities from the kit to grandparents to take home from Rosh Hashanah programs or services to extend their engagement through the High Holidays.

You can print the entire kit, or select certain pages to give out to grandparents with instructions for how to bring the High Holidays to life at home with their grandchildren. In this way, they will have a tool to be ambassadors of Jewish discovery and fun in their families.

Here's an example:

Inspire grandparents to lead a creative way to engage grandchildren in the ritual of *tashlich* at home, called “Paper Towel *Tashlich*.” Using paper towels, permanent and washable markers, and water, they can watch last year’s mistakes dissolve. You can even create *Tashlich* Take-Home packs as a gift, with all of the materials needed in a bag, along with the printed instructions and template from pages 9 and 10 of the kit.

3. Send a dedicated e-blast or social media post sharing the kit with grandparents who don’t live near their grandchildren.

Grandparents who live far from their children and grandchildren may miss them even more than usual during the holiday season. You can share the kit, or specific activities, as a way for grandparents to connect with their grandchildren from afar. In addition to making all the grandparents in your community feel seen, you will also be able to expand the impact of your programming by including a wider network of families.

Here's an example:

On page 5 of the kit, we provide the “In-Between Interview” — an activity that grandparents and grandchildren can use to create a reflection journal through the holiday time. Each day during the Ten Days of *Teshuvah*, they can prompt each other with a question over video chat or phone. You can send this whole resource out, or you could post a question each day of the ten days for grandparents to share with their grandchildren.

4. Create a grandparent-grandchild activity zone on Yom Kippur.

You can use some of our activity ideas to design an activity or craft station in your lobby, or in a dedicated space in your building, for grandparents and grandchildren to explore together during the day of Yom Kippur. In this way, you can encourage grandparent and grandchild shared play without building a dedicated program (and give parents a much-needed break).

Here's an example:

Use the “Jonah and the Giant Fish” and the “Jonah and the Giant Fish Shadow Puppetry” activities on pages 11 through 13 of the kit to design a storytelling and craft activity room inspired by the story of Jonah and the giant fish. Print out copies of our adaptation of the story (page 11). Create signs with instructions on how to engage (for example: “1. Grandparents: Read this story to your grandchild.”) Hang the reflection questions (bottom of page 11) on the wall for families to answer. Set up a table with the shadow puppets from the story (templates on page 13), so that grandparents and grandchildren can play-act the story together using the puppets. You could also provide a variety of materials and invite them to create mini-dioramas of the story.

Whether you adapt these activities for in-person programs or give them to grandparents as a tool to use at home, we encourage you to think about how you can inspire connection and creativity between grandparents and their grandchildren this High Holiday season.



Download all six [Holiday Discovery Kits](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/holiday-discovery-kits/) (<https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/holiday-discovery-kits/>).

Please share your ideas and creative adaptations with us as well, so we can learn from the ways you engage your community. Contact Avery Markel, JGN's Director of Community Engagement: avery@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org

Shanah tovah um'tukah!