



5 Tips for Using the Purim Discovery Kit in Your Community

By Jonathan Shmidt Chapman

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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 [Purim Discovery Kit](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/purim-discovery-kit-jgn/); (<https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/purim-discovery-kit-jgn/>). You can use them as part of a live program or share them with your community to explore at home.

1. Create a Grandparent-Grandchild Purim Shpiel Workshop as part of your programming this year.

Acting out the story of Purim is a longstanding tradition of the holiday celebration. This year, offer a program in which grandparents and grandchildren learn the story of Purim, and have the opportunity to act it out with each other — either as a standalone workshop or as part of the actual Purim evening celebration.

Here's an example:

Have participants use their creativity and imaginations as they work together to act out the story using our very simple Purim shpiel script (page 5 of the Purim Discovery Kit). You can provide costume pieces and props, and divide the participants into groups to work on their short scene. You can start by asking them to create a frozen sculpture of the scene, as if in a museum. Share the sculptures one at a time so that each group can showcase their part of the story. Alternatively, you can incorporate the short grandparent-grandchild scenes into the community Megillah reading.

2. Run a Grandparent-Grandchild Purim Costume Contest online.

Encourage the grandparents and grandchildren in your community to dress up together and take a photo. Grandparents or grandchildren who live far away can participate by coordinating their costume pair virtually and "stitching" their photos together. Share the photos in the lead-up to the Purim holiday. You can offer this as a fun activity, or award winners publicly as part of the Purim festivities.

Here's an example:

Adapt the Upside-Down Costume Swap (page 10) as instructions for your costume contest. Alternatively, you can offer a theme for the costume pairings (for example, dress up as two items that go well together like cookies and milk).

3. Offer a Grandparent-Grandchild Puppet Making Station as a pre-experience to the Megillah reading.

You can set up a play-based self-guided activity station in your lobby for grandparents and grandchildren to create easy-to-make puppets of each character in the Purim story. Use a cardboard box or presentation board to create a tabletop puppet stage for them to act out the story. Alternatively, they can take the puppets they create into the Megillah reading, and hold them up when the characters' names are read aloud.

Tip:

Use the puppet-making activity and template on pages 7 and 8 of the kit. You can print the puppet heads template on cardstock and attach them to dowel rods to create the head and body of the puppet. Use construction paper or felt pieces to be the costume for the puppet. Print the instructions for display and have the materials ready at the station for grandparents and grandchildren to explore together.

4. Provide a Multi-Generational Mishloach Manot Swap in your community.

Offer a drop-in program for grandparents or grandchildren to create Mishloach Manot baskets for each other. Alternatively, participants can create baskets for a friend or fellow community member of a different generation as a gift. You can provide various materials that can go in the basket, and art supplies to decorate the basket or box itself. Use the activity on page 11 as inspiration for making an alternative creative Mishloach Manot basket.

5. Send a dedicated e-blast or social media post sharing the Purim Discovery 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 on the holidays. 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.



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