



CHICAGO AREA RESOURCES – SYNAGOGUE EDUCATION INCLUSION

BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO (BJE) - MARSHALL JEWISH LEARNING CENTER/JTEACH

Linda Sonin, Director

EMAIL: Linda@bjechicago.org

WEBSITE: www.Jteach.org or www.BJEChicago.org

- Robust online Jewish teacher resource center with topics specific to special education, including: [Self Assessments for Students Struggling with Hebrew](#), [Differentiating for Student Learning Needs](#), and [Illustrated Blessing Charts](#)
- Offers digital access to comprehensive Hebrew and religious school teaching materials that are innovative and easily accessible; many lessons contain information about differentiation, both for gifted students and for those who need supports and accommodations
- Offers annual back-to-school “Kickstart” conferences which include break-out sessions regarding best practices and pedagogy to reach every child

KESHET

Dr. Jen Gendel, Director Keshet Inspire Center

EMAIL: jen@keshet.org

WEBSITE: www.keshet.org

- Creation of observation-based recommendations of best practices for included religious school students, host-site classrooms, typically-developing peers, lay leadership, and staff.
- Presentation of workshops for staff and other adult stakeholders on key ground-level topics which must precede success such as Behavior Management Strategies, and Classroom Supports for All Learners, and strategies and best practices for teaching/inclusion aides.
- Presentation of many areas of special education expertise and resources selected based on the details of each synagogue’s challenges and goals.
- Presentation of workshops for students including Bar and Bat Mitzvah Tutoring for Students Who Learn Differently and Disability Awareness training.

SHANA RUTH ERENBERG, PH.D. – FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF LIBENU FOUNDATION

EMAIL: education@htc.edu

Private Practice

- Diagnostic evaluation and remediation of learning disabilities, cognitive disorders, developmental delays, attention and behavior disorders in children and adults.
- Observation of placements and review of school records to determine needs and educational plans.
- Provide in-service teacher training and professional development in Chicago and throughout the United States.
- Consultant to public and private schools regarding assessment, curriculum development, Responsiveness to Intervention and student performance.
- Specialist in differentiated instruction, understanding by design, assessment, and educational and assistive technology.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION (CFJE) – Rabbi Scott Aaron, Executive Director

EMAIL: scottaaron@juf.org

WEBSITE: www.cfje.org

ENCOMPASS – Jodi Newmark, Director

EMAIL: jodineemark@jcfs.org

WEBSITE: www.jcfs.org/encompass

JEWISH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (JCFS) - www.jcfs.org/programs-and-services/special-education



OTHER RESOURCES – SYNAGOGUE EDUCATION INCLUSION

RESOURCES FROM NATIONAL JEWISH RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

1. **Union of Reform Judaism** - www.urj.org/what-we-do/disabilities-inclusion and URJ Disabilities Inclusion Learning Center <http://disabilitiesinclusion.org/>, includes a listing of exemplar congregations and resources.
2. **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism** - www.uscj.org/LeadingKehilla/Accessibility and www.uscj.org/JewishLivingandLearning/SocialAction/Accessibility/OpeningtheGatesofPrayerSoThatAllMayWorship
3. **Yachad/National Jewish Council for Disabilities (Orthodox Union)** - Social and educational programs for youth and adults www.yachad.org/about-yachad/. There is a disability inclusion resource guide for Rabbis at www.yachad.org/resource-guide-rabbis/.
4. **Jewish Reconstructionist Federation** - www.jewishrecon.org/resources/400.

OTHER NATIONAL RESOURCES

1. **MATAN**
Dori Frumin Kirschner, Executive Director
EMAIL: dori@matankids.org 866-410-5600 WEBSITE: <https://matankids.org>
 - Educates Jewish leaders, educators and communities, empowering them to create learning environments supportive of children with special needs, through training Institutes and consultations across North America.
 - Offers Institutes for Early Childhood and Religious School Educators, as well as Workshops and Community-wide trainings on a wide range of topics including, Teaching and Reaching All Learners, Special Learning Needs and Technology, Common Special Needs in the Religious School Classroom, Making B'nai Mitzvah Meaningful for All Students, Red Flags in Early Childhood Education, and Classroom Management Using Positive Behavior Supports.
 - Rich library of online educational resources
2. **Gateways: Access to Jewish Education** - www.jgateways.org
3. **Shelly Christensen** - <http://inclusioninnovations.com/>
4. **RespectAbility** - <https://respectabilityusa.com/for-educators/>
5. **PBS** - www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/inclusive-education/making-inclusion-a-reality/

VISIONS OF SUCCESS

1. Successful Congregational Disability Programs from the URJ <http://disabilitiesinclusion.org/exemplar-congregations/>
2. Three Boston area synagogues' inclusion efforts through the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) and Ruderman Family Foundation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ds4OnqWQ8>
3. Congregation Rodeph Sholom, a Reform synagogue in NYC <http://shireinu.rodephsholom.org/about-2/> and <https://rodephsholom.org/community/shireinu/>
4. Faith Communities and Disability from PBS - a synagogue, church and mosque, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2009/07/02/july-3-2009-faith-communities-and-disability/3440/>