

Talking to Jewish Kids about Antisemitic Hate Crimes

A 10 Point Guide

1. Who should you address?

- · Any child age 8 or over
- OR any child you believe will hear about it anyway

2. Why should we talk to them?

- Adults provide larger context
- Support for managing emotions
- · Strategies for feeling OK

3. Manage your own reaction first.

- · Honor your own feelings
- · Reach out for support for yourself

4. Support your staff.

- These issues touch everyone differently
- · Your staff need to know that their experience matters

5. Pick a value!

- Look to your mission
- · Find a value that fits this moment in time
- · Make the connection clear to your students

6. Start with a question.

- Ask a developmentally appropriate question of your students about this topic or this event
- Example: "Have you heard about the tragedy this past Shabbat in southern California?"

7. Listen (and watch) their answers.

- · Educators gather information by attending to student responses
- · Use this as you would any other pretest
- Tailor the conversation and engagement to where students actually are regarding this content

8. Give a short summary AND THE VALUE.

- · Share a value allows to move the mission of your school forward
- Value-driven discussion will strengthen students more than the event itself can harm them

9. Offer a resource.

- · Guide your students and families to be involved, to feel stronger
- · Through prayer, reflection, or action, or finding needed support

10. Check back in.

- · With students, with staff, with yourself
- Make an appointment to discuss again
- · This is never just one conversation

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