

Adopt-A-Firefighter

LESSON PLAN

PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 2

MATERIALS:

Firefighter Photo Biographies
Pictures of Firefighting equipment
Adopt-A-Firefighter Bingo
Adopt-A-Firefighter Puzzle
Firefighter Friends Template
Make a Fire Hat! Directions
PR Template
“Our School Helps Protect the Land of Israel” poster
Letter to Parents
Firefighter Facts

DISCUSSION:

Homeland

(5-10 minutes, shorter and less detailed discussion for younger students)

- Ask students where they feel most at home.
- For older students, you can ask what it means to feel at home – they will probably answer feeling safe, feeling free to do what they like to do, feeling loved.
- Then ask, “Besides the place where you live, is there somewhere else that feels like home to you?” Students may answer that they feel at home in a grandparent’s house, at the home of a special friend or neighbor, or at school.
- Explain that Israel is a place where every Jewish person can feel at home. That’s why it’s called our homeland.

Other Jewish Values

(5 -10 minutes, shorter and less detailed discussion for younger students)

- Ask students, “What does it mean to be responsible?” Students may be responsible for taking care of their belongings, doing chores such as setting the table, or helping a younger sibling.
- As Jewish people, we believe that helping someone whose life is in danger is a most important responsibility. In Hebrew this is called *Pikuach Nefesh*. Who are some people in our community who are responsible to us, protect our lives? Students may answer police, firefighters or doctors.



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- Firefighters sometimes go into dangerous situations in order to save someone's life. Jewish people believe that you should not just stand still when someone is in danger; it is your responsibility to help. Of course, if you are not trained as a firefighter you should not run into a fire to save someone, but you could call 911, or find an adult to help.
- In Israel, our homeland, firefighters keep people safe, just as they do here in the United States. The Israeli firefighters respond to any emergency call, such as a fire in a building, a forest fire, or a car accident. Unfortunately, Israeli firefighters don't have as much equipment or protective gear as firefighters in the United States.
- The Talmud, the book of Jewish laws, tells us that *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* - All Jewish people are responsible for one another. Israeli firefighters and fire scouts help keep Jewish people safe, and as Jews in the United States, we can help with *tzedakah*, providing Israeli firefighters and fire scouts with tools and equipment they need to do the job. In that way we can be responsible for our fellow Jews.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

- **Israeli Firefighter Photo Biographies:** Show these to the class to learn about the work of a first responder in Israel in first-person.
- **Firefighting Equipment:** Before playing the firefighter games, guide students to study the pictures and discuss how each piece of equipment is used. A guide to the equipment is included with the Adopt-A-Firefighter games.
- **Adopt-A-Firefighter Games:** Use these games to become familiar with the equipment firefighters need to keep people safe. Teacher's Guide is included.
- **Israeli Firefighter Facts** are helpful in communicating to students and their families the need for help in providing equipment to the Israeli firefighters and fire scouts.
- **Firefighter Friends Template:** Students can draw pictures and write letters to Israeli firefighters and fire scouts using this template. Bind the pages into a book, and send it to an Israeli firehouse. Contact education@jnf.org for information on where to send your books/letters.
- **"Our School Helps Protect the Land of Israel" poster:** Use this to post your fundraising goal. Color in each piece of equipment as you raise money to supply it to your Israeli firefighter or fire scout.
- **Local/Global Connection:** Schedule a visit to your local firehouse. Before you go, make fire hats to wear there, using **Make a Fire Hat!** directions. Compare the responsibilities of the US firefighters, their uniforms and their fire trucks to what you have learned about their counterparts in Israel. Use the **PR template** to let local papers know about your visit!



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TAKE ACTION!

- **Blue Box Bob:** The Blue Box Bob costume can be sent to your school at no charge. A teacher or parent volunteer can wear it and tell students about Israeli firefighters and fire scouts. Each student will receive a blue box to take home. When they bring back the filled boxes, students will receive picture-frame magnets that say “I helped Israel!” to say thank you for helping the Israeli firefighters. To schedule a Blue Box Bob visit, go to JNF.org/bbbinschool.
- **Bake Sale:** Sell “Fire Hose” cookies. Make your favorite sugar cookie recipe. Instead of forming circles, form long thin hose-shapes with the dough. Sprinkle with red sprinkles and add a chocolate chip at each end for the spigots.

• Sponsor Firefighter Field Games:

Use the **Sample Letter to Parents** to let them know about the students’ project to help the Israel Firefighters and Fire Scouts. Ask sponsors to pledge towards their children’s participation in Firefighter Field Games.

Quick-Change Game - Firefighters put on their protective hats, boots and coats quickly when they respond to a call. *PreK and K:* See who can put on a hat, boots and a coat most quickly and run to the front of the room. *Grades 1 and 2:* Have a relay race. Half of each team stands at each end of the room. The first player puts on a hat, boots and a coat and runs to the other end of the room where a team mate is waiting. The first player then removes the hat, coat and boots, and the team mate puts them on and runs to the end of the room where another team mate does the same thing. Continue until everyone has had a turn. The first team where everyone has changed wins!

Stop, Drop and Roll in Hebrew: Teach children the Stop, Drop and Roll technique. Once students understand and can do it properly, teach them the Hebrew words:

Atzor (stop), *Shcav* (drop) *V’Hitgalgel* (and roll) עצור, שֶׁכַּב, וְהִתְגַּלְגַּל

Play like Simon Says, either a timed game, or until only one student is left!

Support for the Firefighters:

1. \$5,000 provides suits of protective gear for three firefighters, and school receives permanent recognition at American Independence Park in Jerusalem
2. \$1,800 provides a complete suit of protective gear for one firefighter and school receives a plaque from Jewish National Fund and Friends of Israel Firefighters
3. \$500 will help supply firefighters with the equipment they need, and school receives a personal letter of thanks from a firefighter in Israel
4. \$180 will help supply firefighters with the equipment they need, and school receives a certificate of thanks from Jewish National Fund and Friends of Israel Firefighters

