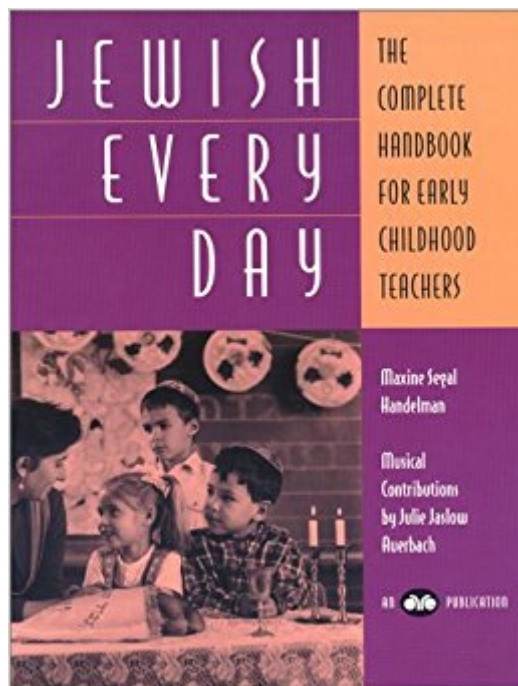




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# Jewish Everyday: The Complete Handbook For Early Childhood Teachers



## Synopsis

The field of early childhood education is constantly evolving. In recent decades, new approaches (developmentally appropriate practice, Reggio Emilia, emergent curriculum, and anti-bias education) have had an enormous impact on the field. Change is in the wind for Jewish early childhood, too. At last, here is a guide to help integrate into the Jewish classroom the best that the secular field has to offer. It is indeed a challenge to make our early childhood classrooms Jewish every day, and not just on holidays and Shabbat. This outstanding and comprehensive book will enable every teacher to create a Jewish developmentally appropriate classroom, one in which Jewish values and themes permeate every learning experience every day. God, Torah, and Israel, the cornerstones of Judaism, are fully explored. Twelve holiday chapters provide substantial background information for the teacher, as well as concepts for each age level and engaging and unique activities. Further chapters discuss storytelling, music, secular holidays, working with interfaith families, keeping kosher at school, and even how to make the summertime Jewish. Bibliographies accompany each chapter, and there is a comprehensive resource list at the end of this volume which lists books for adults and for children, sources for supplies, pertinent organizations, and many Internet sites. Jewish Every Day is an invaluable contemporary resource for the twenty-first century &#x96; a must for every early childhood teacher!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Maxine Segal Handelman, an expert in early childhood education, currently serves as the Director of Jewish Early Childhood Education for the Pritzker Center for Jewish Education of the Jewish

Community Centers of Chicago (JCC). Maxine holds bachelor's degrees in early childhood education and psychology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, a master's in human development from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California, and a master's in Jewish Education from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, California.

A very helpful early childhood resource! Thank you  
Renee (Rivki) Silverberg  
Author of Understanding Children and Families with Autism Spectrum Disorders

I am teaching a once a week workshop on Judaism for 4-5 year olds. This was the only resource that I found that has a whole list of ideas to use as well as stories and sheet music. I like that it lists different activities based on age, gives a wide range of concepts to discuss, other resources to access, and general educational models. I use it every week as I plan my workshop.

Jewish Every Day should be found on the bookshelf of every director, teacher and specialist involved in Jewish early childhood education. In this fabulous resource, Maxine Handelman merges modern-day educational practices (developmentally appropriate practice, webbing, learning centers, play) with traditional Jewish concepts. Not only does Ms. Handelman touch on the Jewish holidays, but she devotes several chapters to the concepts that we (Jewish educators) may not think of incorporating into our daily programs either because we think they are too abstract for little children to understand or we are afraid that the time they will take will be at the expense of other curriculum areas we must cover. Such concepts include God, Prayer, Mitzvot, Torah and Life Cycle Events. In each chapter, Ms. Handelman leads us to think about the developmental appropriateness of these ideas as she includes age-specific lists of concepts the children may be learning from infancy to 5-years old. Activities that span the curriculum (language, science, math, art, circle time, outdoor time) are so plentiful that teachers may re-new their lesson plans yearly. Music and movement contributions by Julie Jaslow Auerbach will guarantee active learning. Ms. Handelman also includes brief discussions relating to some of the modern day issues found in Jewish settings, such as the employment of non-Jewish teachers, interfaith families and keeping kosher at school. Jewish Every Day is an inspirational resource for educators. While providing many valuable resources, Ms. Handelman also evokes "the learner" in her readers. Undoubtedly everyone who reads this book will learn something new and will be inspired in one way or another to improve or supplement the programs in their classrooms. Kudos to Maxine Handelman for providing a resource so needed in Jewish education!

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