

High Holiday File Folder Activities:

A Gateways Guide for Parents

About File Folder Activities

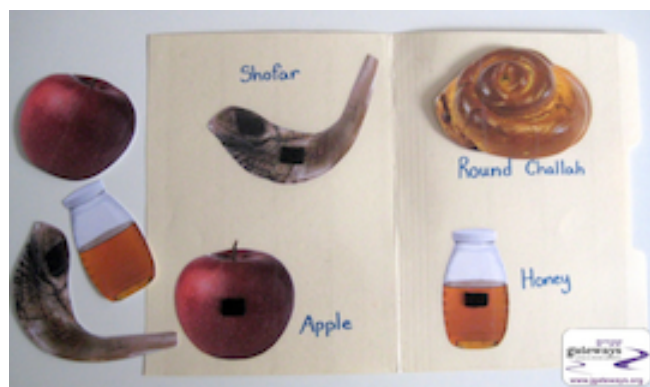
File folder activities can help your children review ideas and familiarize them with Jewish objects and prayers. The visual nature of file folder activities takes advantage of the visual strengths of children with autism and many other developmental disabilities. Since file folder activities are inexpensive and relatively easy to make, you can accumulate a large stack of file folder activities in no time! Your children may also enjoy lending a hand in the process of making file folder activities; children are often very proud of activities that they have helped to create. Please see the Gateways Guide to Making File Folder Activities for simple directions on how to make file folder activities at home.

Tips for Using High Holiday File Folder Activities:

1. A few weeks before the High Holidays, bring out your High Holiday file folder tasks.

Some parents may want to add High Holiday file folder activities to their child's homework or list of chores in the weeks leading up to the High Holidays. Other parents may prefer to place the High Holiday file folder activities in a prominent place among their child's toys and puzzles. Increasing exposure to

these file folder tasks a few weeks in advance of the High Holidays will help them feel familiar with the symbols, objects, and prayers in these tasks. By the time the High Holidays arrive, your child will feel right at home with apples, honey, and round challot!



2. Use appropriate Shabbat-themed file folder activities. Many of the objects we use on the High Holidays, such as kiddush cups and candles, are the same as the objects we use on Shabbat. You may integrate some of these Shabbat-themed file folder activities in with your High Holiday activities.

3. Completing file folder activities in the afternoon before erev Rosh Hashanah or erev Yom Kippur will help prepare your child for your evening rituals. File folder activities can help familiarize your child with objects that they will see and the prayers they will say later in the day. Giving your child a stack of these activities to do can also help to keep them occupied as you prepare the house for the High Holidays!

4. At home on erev Rosh Hashanah or erev Yom Kippur, give your child file folder activities to complete as you say each blessing. For example, as you light the candles give your child a candle-themed matching activity. Or as you say the blessings over the apples and honey, give your child the an apple-themed activity. Giving your children these file folder activities to complete will help focus them in on the objects you are using at the moment. It is also a wonderful way of helping them to participate in welcoming the holidays with your family at the table.

Instead of just using our picture matching file folder activities, you may also use file folder activities made from our symbol prayer documents. There are directions on the web site for creating matching file folder activities or more difficult sequencing file folder activities. By completing these file folder activities as you recite each prayer, your child can participate in saying the blessings and gain familiarity with the prayers.



5. If you use file folder activities at the table, make a designated place to put completed activities. If you're not careful, your holiday table could easily become littered with file folder activities! A designated spot to put these completed activities will not only reduce clutter but allow your child to independently put away each activity once they have finished. A designated finished activity spot can be anything from a paper tray or piece of construction paper on your table to a small box or reusable grocery bag on the floor next to your table.



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