

Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

In class we have been studying winter celebrations from around the world. This week we have been talking about Hanukkah, a Jewish celebration. The children have had an opportunity to learn songs, traditions, poems, and games while talking about the Hanukkah celebration. Today the children played the Jewish traditional Dreidel game. They had so much fun playing it; I am sending home the instructions to make a dreidel and the instructions and rules of the game.

Dreidel Materials:

- Square piece of cardboard (about 4" x 4"), pencil, marker, ruler
 - Nuts, raisins, pennies, or whatever you want to play the game
1. Use the ruler to draw lines from corner to corner of the piece of cardboard, dividing the cardboard into four triangles.
 2. In each triangle, write one of the Hebrew letters.



Nun



Gimel



Hay



Shin

3. Poke a small hole in the center of the cardboard. Then push the pencil partway through the middle of the cardboard, letting it stick out about one inch. Spin the dreidel on the pencil point.

How to Play Dreidel

- Give each player 15 pennies.
- Ask each player to put two of their pennies into the center "pot."
- Give each player a turn to spin the dreidel (like a top). The letter that's facing up when the dreidel stops spinning tells what the player must do:
 - *Nun – do nothing*
 - *Gimmel – take everything from the pot*
 - *Hay – take half the pot*
 - *Shin – put two pennies in the pot*
- Each time the pot is emptied, have the players put two more pennies in the pot.
- The game is over when a player has no more pennies.
- The winner is the one with the most pennies.