

Matan

B'nai Mitzvah Inclusion Guide

Unit 4: The Main Event



BIG IDEAS

The typical B'nai Mitzvah ceremony is not for everyone

Begin to shift your mindset and attitude about how to best accommodate the family with whom you are working

Why does a “typical” service not always work?

- All students learn differently
- All students have a variety of comfort levels
- Jewish backgrounds differ
- Abilities and strengths differ

Change Your Approach

When can the bar/bat mitzvah take place?

- Shabbat afternoon (mincha)
- Monday or Thursday morning
- Holiday service (Example: Purim, Hanukkah)
- Rosh Chodesh (once a month)
- Kabbalat Shabbat



Change Your Approach

Where can the bar/bat mitzvah take place?

- Almost anywhere!
- Family's home/backyard
- Summer camp
- Retreat center
- Rabbi's study
- Chapel vs. sanctuary
- School
- Zoom/Virtual platform



Change Your Approach

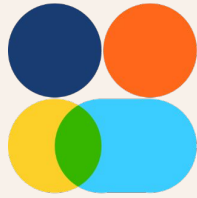
What parts of the service can be changed?

- Shorter Aliyot
- Lead essential prayers only
- Expression of the d'var Torah
- Shorter service altogether



Other Possible Accommodations

- Non verbal students might use a communication device/assistive technology
- pre-record parts of service on device to be played out loud
- Provide a schedule/set of expectations for each tutoring session so the student is prepared
- Extended time/wait time: give students the time they need to process information or complete a task



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**Reshaping Jewish
Communities Through
Disability Inclusion**