

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

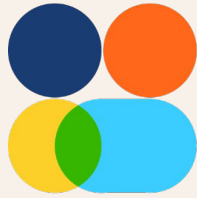
What parts of the service can be changed?

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



Other Possible Accommodations

- Non-speaking 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**