



Grades 3-5 Pre-Holiday Warm-up Family Activity

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The #ShineALight Initiative

The #ShineALight Initiative is a national project to create a collective light of celebration spreading the Jewish joy of Chanukah and the beautiful traditions we honor in our homes with our families.

Sponsored in part by the UJA-Federation of New York, the initiative is designed as a counter-expression to antisemitism and other messages of hate acts towards Jews and Israel. The #ShineALight Initiative is leveraging education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy among Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

The Jewish Education Project is a proud content partner of the #ShineALight Initiative and is delighted to provide these free materials to parents and other caring adults. We encourage you to utilize this education content in the week leading up to and through Chanukah (this year and in the future), and if applicable, at other times of the year.

Parent/Adult Background Information

In addition to lighting the Chanukah candles, another mitzvah of Chanukah is *Pirsum haNes*, the public proclamation of the miraculous events that transpired in the days of the Maccabees. A number of features of Chanukah observance are connected to this requirement. The Chanukah lights are lit at sundown, the time when passers-by are most likely to see them (for more on candle lighting, visit our [Chanukah 101 page](#)). When possible, the Chanukah (Chanukah menorah) is placed in a window or elsewhere in the home so that it can be seen from the outside.

[There are few items on the Supply List included below that you may need/want to purchase.]



Social Media: If you are comfortable, we would love for you to spread the joy your family is experiencing while participating in this activity. Please take photos and/or videos and share them to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.



Prep Time: 10 minutes + supply purchase

Activity Time: 20-30 minutes + 24 hours drying time

Supplies

These are the supplies needed to make your own custom window clings. The amounts listed are per color. Make as many colors as you would like.

- Two tablespoons white Elmers glue
- Two drops of dish soap
- Gel food coloring
- Glass jar or disposable container
- Paint brushes, bristles, not sponge
- Plastic page protectors (can be found at Amazon, Staples, Target, Office Depot).
Examples are [here](#) and [here](#).
- Blue painters' tape
- Plastic cutlery or popsicle sticks for stirring



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Activity Instructions

(Activity modified from [this site](#))

1. As a family, have a discussion about how comfortable it is to put your Judaism on display. Why or why not?
2. Parents should explain the mitzvah of Pirsum haNes. Talk about where you usually place your Chanukiah/ Chanukiyot. Is it in/near a window? Is there a safe way to put it in the window or a way that it can be seen from outside?
3. Knowing that not every home allows for a safe way of having lit candles near your front window, or if you want to “advertise the miracle” across many windows, you can create custom window clings that will temporarily stick your windows.
4. Brainstorm a list of design ideas you would like to develop to represent Chanukah. [One cling might even be a Chanukiah with candles and flames that can be added each night of Chanukah.]
5. Using blue painters’ tape, tape plastic sheet protectors to your table for each person (and for each design they will create).
6. Consider if you want to create your designs freehand or if you want to draw your designs on the plastic before painting to make it a little easier. (You could draw on plain paper or print images from the internet and slip them inside or beneath the plastic page protector for easy tracing.)
7. In a glass jar or a disposable container, add glue, dish soap, and enough food coloring to achieve your desired color. Using plastic cutlery or popsicle sticks, stir this mixture well. Repeat for each color you want.
8. Allow the mixture to thicken for a couple of minutes and then begin to paint your designs.
9. Make sure your clings are not too thin, or they won’t stick, add another layer of mixture if needed.
10. The colors should all be touching within one design to form one cling.
11. Let your designs dry overnight, then peel them from the sheet protector and stick them to your windows.
12. If they lose their stickiness you can add a little warm water using a clean paint brush or paper towel to the backs.
13. Don’t forget to upload photos and/or videos of this activity to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.