Goals of Family Tzedekah Programs

Broaden children’s understanding of tzedekah:
- Giving tzedekah involves using one’s resources to help others and/or make the world a better place (tikkun olam)

- Tzedekah is derived from the Hebrew root - צ.ד.ק : justice, fairness

*When we give tzedekah we perform a just act: we right the wrongs of the world and create a more just situation*

Offer ideas to integrate tzedekah into rituals of daily life

Outline the underlying principles of tzedekah:

- As Jews we have obligation to give tzedekah to individuals in need and to the community at large
Tzedekah Sources

• If there be among you a needy man, one of your brethren, within any of your gates, in your land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your needy brother; but you shall surely open your hand unto him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he is wanting.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

• One is obligated to give a tenth of his income to charity. It is meritorious to give a fifth

Yorah Daiah 249:1

• Do not separate yourself from the community.

Pirkei Avot 2: 4

• When the community is in trouble, a person should not say, "I will go into my house and eat and drink and be at peace with myself."

B. Talmud, Massechet Ta'anit 11a

• Every city in which Jews live must establish a charity agent, men who are known and trusted to go to the people from week to week and to take from everyone what they find to give, and what they allocate, and they distribute the money to the poor for the subsequent week.

Rambam Laws of Charity 9:1
Why Jumping Jenny?

- Fun, engaging story
- Encourages action
- Inspires children to think about what they can personally do to raise tzedekah money
- Paves the way for tzedekah fair activities
Jumping Jenny Synopsis

Jenny loves to jump. She is constantly jumping over cracks in the sidewalk and over fences with and without her pogo stick. Her jumping gets her in trouble in school where she knocks over a box of caterpillars in the science room and bumps into the hot lunch cart in the cafeteria, splattering mashed potatoes in every direction. Her jumping annoys her friends who make fun of her, her teachers who ask her to stop and her mother who does not allow her to jump in the house.

Jenny becomes a hero when her teacher suggests a mitzvah project to help children in Uganda. Jenny decides she will jump 1,000 times without stopping and collects $1 a jump from her friends and family.

*Jewish Book World Magazine*
Intro Activity: Making Tzedakah Boxes
Post Reading Discussion Questions

- How many jumps was Jenny able to do?
- Why did Jenny want to do 1000 jumps?
- What was Jenny going to do with the money that she earned from her jumps?
- Why did the children in Uganda need money?
- Do you know any Hebrew words that describe what Jenny did?
- She did a mitzvah—a good deed. The mitzvah which she did has a special Hebrew name. It’s called tzedekah? Does anyone know what tzedekah is?
The word **tzedekah** comes from the word **tzedek**-It means justice or doing the right thing.

If we meet someone who is poor and has very little food or clothes or toys—what’s the right thing to do?

When we help someone by giving them money or something which they really need (like food or clothes) we say that we’re giving **tzedekah** or practicing the mitzvah of **tzedekah**.

Have you ever given **tzedekah**? What did you give?

How many of you made **tzedekah** boxes today? What will you do with your **tzedekah** boxes?

What will you do with the money that you collect in your boxes?
Children travel from station to station, performing various tzedakah related tasks and earning points for the number of activities accomplished.

Points are recorded on a paper which children wear around their necks.

When children feel as if they have completed enough tasks, they receive money for total number of tasks performed. This money can be deposited in child’s own tzedakah box, or donated to a Federation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tzedakah Activity Task Chart</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coin Flip</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td># of times coin landed in tzedakah cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Penny Pitch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of pennies tossed into floating cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skillful Toes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of coins transferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coin Stack</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of coins in largest stack successfully carried on head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treasure Dig</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of coins found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soft Coin Transfer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of soft coins (pom poms) transferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diving for Quarters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of quarters retrieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tzedakah Box Toss</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of boxes knocked down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Points</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jump Rope Challenge</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of consecutive Jumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tzedakah Dash</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of coins placed in tzedakah box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Tzedakah Donation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My Name: ___________________________
Today, you’re going to have the chance to be like Jenny and her classmates. You’re going to have the opportunity to participate in a tzedekah fair. You’re going to go from booth to booth performing different tasks and earning points. We’re going to write your points down on this special score card.

We have all kinds of booths at our fair. We have one where you can jump, not with a pogo stick but with a jump rope and earn tzedekah money for each jump that you do. Other booths have to do with tzedekah and tzedekah boxes. At one booth you’ll see how many tzedekah boxes you can knock over with a ball.

When you leave today, you’ll add up the points on your scorecard and receive money for your points. What will you do with the money you’ll receive for your points? Will you keep it for yourself?
Tzedakah Fair Activities

Jump Rope Challenge

**THE CHALLENGE**
How many times in a row can you successfully jump over the rope without pausing, without touching or getting tangled in the rope?

**INSTRUCTIONS**
**Older Children:** Hold one end of the rope in each hand. Swing the rope over your head and then down in front of your toes. How many jumps can you do without stepping on the rope or missing a jump or getting tangled in rope?

**Younger children:** How many times in a row can you successfully jump over the wiggly, jiggly rope without being touched by the rope?

Penny Pitch

**THE CHALLENGE**
How many pennies (out of 10) can you successfully toss into the floating cups?

**INSTRUCTIONS**
**Older children:** Have to stand further back
**Younger children:** Get to stand closer
Tzedakah Fair Activities

Tzedekah Dash

THE CHALLENGE
In one minute, how many coins can you deposit into the tzedekah box?

INSTRUCTIONS
To deposit a coin, you must run approximately 12 yards, carrying a coin on a spoon. When you reach the tzedekah box, you must use your spoon to insert the coin into the box (Younger children may use their hands). Once the coin has been successfully deposited into the box, or lands on the floor, you must dash back to retrieve another coin. (Any coin which touches the floor can not be put into the box)

At the end of the minute, the player opens the tzedekah box, counts the coins, and then returns the coins to the starting plate.

Adaptation for Younger Children: they may use their hands rather than the spoon to deposit.

Treasure Dig

THE CHALLENGE
How many coins can you find in a minute in a dishpan full of sand?
Tzedakah Fair Activities

**Coin flip**

**THE CHALLENGE**
In one minute, how many times can you successfully flip the coin so that it lands inside the tzedakah box/cup. Count the # of times coin is successfully flipped into cup in one minute.

**Tzedekah Box Toss**

**THE CHALLENGE**
How many tzedekah boxes can you knock down with one toss?

**INSTRUCTIONS**
Older children: Have to stand further back
Younger children: Get to stand closer
Tzedakah Fair Activities

Diving for Quarters

**THE CHALLENGE**
How many quarters (out of 5) can you remove from the water while wearing rubber gloves and being blindfolded?

**THE CHALLENGE**
Place gloves on hands, fasten blindfold. Remove quarters from the water. Pick up and remove only the quarters. You want to leave the other coins in the basin.

After players feel as if they have removed all of the quarters from the bin, they check to see what they have actually taken out.

Quarters are worth one point, but pennies, nickels, and dimes are each worth negative one point.

**Adaptation for younger children** - no blindfold

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Skillful Toes

**THE CHALLENGE**
Using only your toes how many coins can you grab from one plate and transfer to the other? Count # of coins transferred with toes.

**Adaptation for younger children** - Place plates further apart. Insert coins in between toes. Child walks from start line to finish line, trying to keep coin between his/her toes. Upon arriving at plate, child uses hands to remove coin from in between toes. Goes back to original starting plate and begins again with a new coin. Count # of coins transported.
Tzedakah Fair Activities

One-Handed, Blind-Folded Soft Coin Transfer

THE CHALLENGE
In 30 seconds, how many soft coins (pompoms) can you transfer from a bowl to a plate, while blindfolded. Players blindfold themselves and using a spoon, try to transfer the most soft coins (pompoms) in 30 seconds from the bowl to the plate.

Since this is one-handed, players can't use their other hand to keep their cotton balls on their spoons.

Adaptation for younger child - transfer without blindfold.

Coin stack

THE CHALLENGE
How many coins can you carry stacked on your head, while walking from a start to a finish line?
PJ Library Books Featuring Raising of Tzedekah Money

Additional Tzedakah Programs available for these books at:

www.pjlibrary.org/educators