

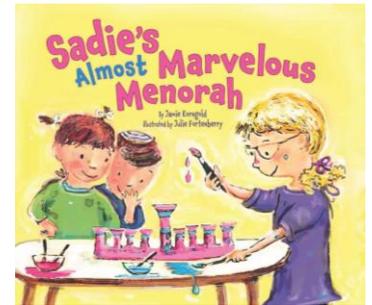
In the Field

Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah (4's)

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Candle Sequencing

In [Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah](#), each member of the family lights their own Hanukkiyah. This inspired [Atarah Academy](#), a Montessori school in Miami, to play with candle sequencing. They created a simple and fun series of picture cards with suggested patterns for children to recreate.

Festival of Light and Fire

Many of us are lighting candles at home and in the classroom. Teachers in Miami think this is a great time to talk about fire safety. Once children understand fire safety concepts, the teachers plan to work with candles, predicting how long candles of different shapes, sizes, and materials will burn.



Light and Color

At a recent PJGtS workshop in Miami, teachers reading [Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah](#) pointed out that study of light might include a study of color, too. They are mixing paints and creating new colors just for their holiday creations.

Candles and Recycling

Broward County teachers are including lessons about reusing and recycling along with their Hanukkah candle experiments, taking their cue from [Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah](#). They collect melted bits of wax from their left-over Shabbat and Hanukkah candles to create new Havdallah candles.



Look on the Bright Side

Bobbi Frank from the [Robert M. Beren Academy](#) in Houston is using [Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah](#) to start discussions about family traditions at Hanukkah time as well as having a positive outlook on life. Bobbi says, "I also particularly like the [book's] emphasis on *gam zu l'tovah* - looking for the positive when things seems to go wrong." What will the lasting effects be on Bobbi's classroom? Let us know!



Engaging Families

Holiday and Light Museum

Laura Talisman writes [Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah](#) is sparking many ideas in their Pre-K class at the [Bertha Alyce Center of the ERJCC](#) in Houston, Texas. They are building a Holiday and Light Museum. Children and families will have the opportunity to share holiday items and study properties of light. On display are all types of lighting devices from Hanukkah candles to flashlight with batteries. The centerpiece is a large Hanukkiyah the children are putting together from recycled paper towel and toilet tissue rolls, while taking time to discuss re-using discarded items to make something new and beautiful. When they take a break from artistic endeavors they pretend to be the candles on the menorah, and each child has a turn to be the Shamash.

Pizza by Candlelight

"How do we interest families in our experiments with light in preparation for Hanukkah?" wondered teachers in Pinellas County Florida during a PJGtS workshop. The teacher plan to change the lighting in the classroom as children work and play, such as reading by lamp light and art by sunlight. The teachers wanted to include a discussion about pre-electric light in the days of the Maccabees. Then the teachers had a terrific idea - you could practically see the light bulb appear over their heads. (Aside to teachers of older children - how many ways do we use "light" metaphors in our language?) "Let's have a candlelight lunch, and recommend a candlelight dinner at home!" Candlelight is the perfect setting for a cozy dinner and intriguing story times.



What's Your Story?

Miami teachers are encouraging families to share stories about family traditions. The fact that Thanksgiving and Hanukkah coincide this year provides a unique opportunity to share stories about family histories, recipes, and giving thanks.