The following document contains concerns and questions that participants offered at the December 9, 2003 Tartak Interactive Lunch & Learn on Hebrew education.

Do you have any responses or ideas about how to handle these issues? Have you tried anything that has worked or provided insight?

Share your idea, tartak@huc.edu. We will post responses, so that members of our community can support and strengthen each other’s work. Suggestions can be found on our website, www.huc.edu/tartak/events.html under Dec. 9 Hebrew. Todah Rabbah!

Conundrums and Questions in Teaching Hebrew

Teaching Adults
- How do I teach adults who are very beginning Hebrew students?
- How do I teach a group of adults who are all at different skill levels?
- How do I help teens and adults learn Hebrew without an organized class (i.e. tapes, CD-ROMs, books)?
- How do I teach adults Hebrew and prevent them from feeling childish?
- How much Hebrew should I be teaching to my adult students (i.e. grammar, decoding, vocabulary)?

Making Hebrew Exciting
- What ideas can I use to teach Hebrew to very active students?
- How do I come up with games that can be used in a one-on-one tutoring session?
- How can I make my Hebrew classes more exciting, fun and reinforcing for children?

Multiple Level Issues
- What do I do with the few students who learn Hebrew much more quickly than the rest of the class?
- How do I deal with different levels of knowledge and ability in the same classroom?

Learning Diversity Issues
- How do I help a child who reverses letters or who has directional problems when they look at Hebrew text?
- How do I help students to remember what they learn from year to year?

Time Limitation and Curricular Issues
- How do I teach Hebrew in 1-2 hours per week?
• Given limited instruction time, what do I focus on in my teaching?
• Given limited instruction time, how do I actually achieve a level of competence beyond basic reading and very basic vocabulary in a religious school setting?
• How should I define competence in a religious school setting?
• Where should I begin teaching siddur Hebrew?
• How do I help students learn what they need to for their Bat or Bar Mitzvah in one hour per week?
• Where can I find developmentally appropriate materials for modern, siddur, Biblical and/or spoken Hebrew?

Emotional Issues
• How can I help students learn when they react very negatively and emotionally toward suggestions that they “try again.”
• How can I avoid embarrassing students who do not like to read aloud?
• How do I instill in students a love of Hebrew?