



DR. NATHANIEL A. ENTIN INSTITUTE
FOR HEBREW LANGUAGE AND THE ARTS

STRUCTURED DIALOGUE TO DISCUSS
OUR HEBREW GOALS

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THE PROFICIENCY APPROACH TO HEBREW LANGUAGE LEARNING

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INTRODUCTION

This approach assists learners in developing their ability to “perform the language” by listening, speaking, reading (with meaning) and writing.

It uses the tool, “*The Guidelines of the American Council in Teaching Foreign Languages,*” to assess the various levels of achievement

KEY POINTS OF THE PROFICIENCY APPROACH

- IMMERSES TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN MODERN HEBREW
- PROVIDES INTENSIVE HEBREW TRAINING FOR TEACHERS IN ORDER TO GAIN FLUENCY
- TRAINS ISRAELI AND FLUENT HEBREW SPEAKERS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION THEORY AND METHODOLOGIES, AND PRINCIPLES FOR IDENTIFYING APPROPRIATE MATERIALS

TEACHES TEFILLAH - BY MEMORIZATION AND RECITATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FLUENCY WITH THE RITUALS

- ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO HAVE FUN WITH HEBREW - THROUGH STORIES, SONGS, AND GAMES
- PROVIDES A STRONG CONNECTION TO ISRAEL
- CREATES A SPIRAL, FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM PROVIDING SPECIFIC GOALS FOR EACH GRADE
- STRESSES MEASUREMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT AND PROFICIENCY

- SEPARATES PRAYER AND LANGUAGE LEARNING
- BUILDS UPON STUDENTS' MOTIVATION TO LEARN TO SPEAK HEBREW
- ACTIVELY USES HEBREW LANGUAGE IN THE CLASSROOM



Do not confuse decoding (match between sign and sound) with language instruction. (transfer of meaning); they are separate activities.

GOAL: TO BRING STUDENTS UP TO THE
“INTERMEDIATE-LOW” LEVEL
ON *THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON
TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE
GUIDELINES SCALE* (IF THEY HAVE THE
REQUISITE NUMBER OF HOURS) OVER
5 YEARS

THE PROFICIENCY APPROACH
HELPS STUDENTS
FIND SPIRITUAL CONNECTION AND JOY
WITH THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

TEACHING HEBREW – DECODING / RECITATION SKILLS APPROACH Dina Maiben DEFINITIONS

READING - THE PROCESS OF TRANSLATING
VISUAL SYMBOLS INTO MEANINGFUL
LANGUAGE

DECODING - TRANSLATING SYMBOLS INTO THE
SOUNDS THEY REPRESENT THEN BLENDING
THOSE SOUNDS BACK TOGETHER

RECITATION - (The goal of all prayer programs)
RECITING SPECIFIC PRAYER TEXTS IN ORDER
TO PARTICIPATE AND OR LEAD IN
CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES;
REQUIRES FLUENCY IN WORD BLENDING
PHRASEOLOGY

We must be willing to state our goals and make sure they are clear.

- The Hebrew curriculum needs to be detailed and specific.
- Active Learning is encouraged.

- Hebrew reading should be taught within a language framework and real Hebrew words be used for decoding practice.
- Modern Hebrew vocabulary should be incorporated as an integral part of the reading program.
- Hebrew professionals have to be accountable for their students' achievement and proficiency.

RIVKA DORI'S HEBREW PROGRAMMING REALITIES

I. Teaching Hebrew for Ritual

Promotes identification with certain religious ideas and traditions, emphasizes synagogue skills and participation in worship services: decoding, sight reading, fluency in phrasing and reciting Hebrew prayers.

II. Teaching Hebrew for Developing Literacy

Promotes learning Jewish texts, concepts and history; reading comprehension skills, vocabulary, and writing skills

III Teaching Hebrew for Communication -

Promotes student production of their own sentences orally; promotes Israeli/American culture. Reading materials provide real information - content not language based; emphasizes interpersonal communication

DECODING AND RECITATION ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH THE RITUAL AND LITERACY APPROACHES



Do not confuse decoding (match between sign and sound) with language instruction (transfer of meaning); they are separate activities

WORKSHOP BRAINSTORMING OUR DREAMS FOR HEBREW EDUCATION

Parallel parent education

Educated, creative, fluent Hebrew teachers

Immersion

Begin conversational Hebrew at young age

Faculty and family trips to Israel

Built-in summer camp Hebrew experiences

Endowment system

Professional development for Hebrew

WORKSHOP BRAINSTORMING OUR DREAMS FOR HEBREW EDUCATION Continued

Computer programs for Hebrew study

Hebrew music on iPods

Shabbatonim to stress Hebrew

Arts in Hebrew education: performances, plays, zimriah

Enlightened lay leaders

Israel connections – Pen Pals

Teacher Sharing – networks, worldwide

Credits for Hebrew as a foreign language

THE DECODING/ RECITATION SKILLS
APPROACH
PREPARES STUDENTS
FOR THEIR
BAR OR BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY
AND FUTURE RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION