

Hanukkah Activities Kids Will Love!

All Ages

Infants (0–12 months)

1) Soft “Lights” Sensory Bottle (Sealed)

How to implement:

- Fill a plastic bottle with water + glitter glue + chunky glitter (or shiny confetti).
- Add a few **large** blue/silver items (big sequins or large pom-poms).
- Seal with hot glue + tape around the cap.
- During tummy time, roll it slowly and narrate: “Look—sparkle...light...calm.”

2) “Candle Glow” Light Play

How to implement:

- Use a **battery tea light** (never real candles).
- Hold it a safe distance and move it slowly left/right for tracking.
- Pair with a simple phrase: “We see the light.”

3) Cozy Song & Rock Routine

How to implement:

- Rock and sing a calm lullaby or simple “light” song.
- Add gentle motions (slow claps, soft sway).
- Repeat the same routine daily for predictability.



Toddlers (1–2 years)

1) Menorah Dot Sticker Art

How to implement:

- Draw a simple menorah shape with **9 “candle” spots** (8 + helper candle).
- Toddlers place **dot stickers** on the spots (one per spot or fill all).
- Talk simply: “Lights...one, two...” (count as appropriate).

2) Dreidel Roll & Color Match

How to implement:

- Use a large dreidel picture (or a safe dreidel if your program allows).
- Make 4 color cards on the floor. Roll/spin, then walk to the matching color.
- Keep language simple: “Spin...stop...match!”

3) “Oil & Water Magic” Sensory Jar

How to implement:

- In a sealed bottle: water + a little oil + food coloring (or colored beads).
 - Shake gently and watch it separate.
 - Say: “Look—moving...slow...calm.”
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Preschool (3–5 years)

1) Build-a-Menorah Craft

How to implement:



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- Use clay/playdough base + 9 craft sticks (or paper shapes).
- Kids add “flames” using yellow paper shapes (no real flame imagery needed if preferred).
- Count together: “Let’s add 9 lights.”

2) Dreidel Math Game

How to implement:

- Kids spin a dreidel (or use a spinner).
- Assign simple actions by symbol/color (example):
 - add 1 counter
 - take 1 counter
 - trade counters
 - all share 1 counter into the “pot”
- Use counters like pom-poms or blocks.

3) Kindness “Light Notes”

How to implement:

- Kids draw or dictate one kind action: “I will help a friend.”
 - Put notes on a classroom “light wall” with paper candles/stars.
 - Read a few notes each day.
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School-Age (6+ years)

1) Hanukkah STEM: “Oil Lamp” Light Experiment

How to implement:

- Provide small cups of water + oil (supervised) and let kids observe separation.



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- Connect to the theme: “Oil lasts a long time.”
- Pair with a **battery tea light** for a safe “light” element.

2) Design a Dreidel Board Game

How to implement:

- Kids create a simple board (start → finish) with dreidel spaces:
 - move forward/back
 - take/give counters
 - kindness challenge (“say something kind”)
- Play in small groups and revise rules.

3) Culture & Community Learning

How to implement:

- Teach: “Hanukkah is celebrated by Jewish families around the world.”
- Kids explore 2–3 topics:
 - symbols (menorah, dreidel)
 - foods (latkes, sufganiyot—optional discussion)
 - family traditions (songs, games, gifts—varies by family)
- End with: “Traditions can look different in different homes.”



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