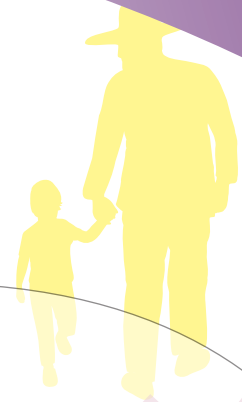


SHUL SAFETY, FROM ALEPH TO YUD!



VAV: VALIDATE YOUR CHILD'S "SHUL SAFETY FOLLOW-THROUGH!"

When your child follows the Shul Safety rules praise your child, and let your child know how proud you are of him/her. The more you validate your child, the more he/she will want to follow-through again and again.

ZAYIN: ZOOM BACK HOME!

Tell your child that once shul is over, and unless otherwise planned with you ahead of time, your child should not dally at shul. Make sure your child understands what time he/she is expected back home. As you will have no way to contact your child once he/she is in shul, setting up clear time frames of when your child is expected back will ensure you aren't worried.

CHES: CANDYMAN CAUTION

The candyman in your shul may be a wonderful person. However, your child should know that prior to taking anything from anyone your child must make sure it's okay with you first. Your child should NEVER go with the candyman, or any other adult, to another room or area outside of the shul sanctuary, where there are lots of people around.

TES: TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When your child comes home, ask questions about his/her experience. Questions should be specific and allow for the child to share openly about anyone the child may have spoken to, anything the child may have done differently, etc.

YUD: YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF YOUR BODY!

Remind your child about the No Touch Safety rules and what to do if someone makes your child uncomfortable. Reinforce that even if the person making the child uncomfortable is someone the child knows well or a respected figure in shul, your child should get away and find a Safe Stranger or Trusted Adult to Tell. Emphasize that your child will not get into trouble for telling you and that he/she is doing the right thing.

ALEPH: A SHUL BUDDY IS A SAFE BET!

Do not allow your child to go to shul alone. Parents tend to be vigilant about this practice with their younger children, however the same rules should apply to older teens as well. Going with a parent, a sibling, a neighbor, or a friend ensures your child is safer. It is the responsibility of the parent or Trusted Adult to know the whereabouts of his/her child at all times. If an older child is responsible for watching a younger child make sure the expectations are fair and appropriate and the plan is clear, agreed upon by all. Remember, the older child may not be ready for this responsibility.

BEIS: BE AWARE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Teach your child to "walk with a purpose," staying alert to his/her surroundings. As Shabbos is a more relaxed time, children tend to be less aware of their environment. But especially because your child will not have a cell phone accessible, being conscious of one's surroundings is key.

GIMMEL: GO FOR A TEST RUN

Walk your child the first few times, pointing out safe places and homes the child can go to if sensing danger. Performing a practice shul run is a not only being practical, but being prepared.

DALED: DISCUSS SHUL RULES AND PROTOCOLS

Such as:

- Only staying in key places that were designated in advance. Instruct your child to get permission from you before changing locations in the shul or going outside. Explain that you should never have to go looking for your child.
- Never taking anything, going anywhere, or leaving, without prior consent from the Grown-Up In Charge.
- No alcohol or trying "new" drinks offered by shul members or friends.
- Decide if you allow your child to go to the bathroom alone. Bathrooms can be a hangout spot for predators waiting for victims or can be a private place where children can abuse other children. Younger children should always go with a buddy to the bathroom and all children should be taught to tell their Trusted Adult if something makes them uncomfortable.

HEY: HELP IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Teach your child who to look out for if your child cannot find you and he/she requires help. Great Safe Strangers in shul are a mother with children on the women's side, the shul Rav, or an agreed upon family friend or neighbor. Your child should have easily accessible individuals he/she can turn to, to ask for help.

**FOLLOW THE ALEPH BAIIS OF SHUL SAFETY TO
NOT ONLY BE A SMART JEW, BUT A SAFER YOU!**