

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT ISRAEL

- Start with open-ended questions to learn what a child is thinking and what a child knows about what is going on in Israel.
- Talk to children about what a tragedy is.
 - A tragedy is a very sad and terrible event. Sometimes we hear about a tragedy from the news. This is because tragedies often happen somewhere different from where we live.
 - Tragedies often have survivors. Survivors are people who lived through a tragedy. They have lost something important to them, and sometimes they know someone who died in the tragedy. Tragedies are very sad times, especially for survivors. They can feel confusing and scary.
- Talk to children about what happened in Israel in age-appropriate ways.
 - **Very Young Children**
Israel is a special place to the Jewish people. There was a tragedy in Israel a few weeks ago. There was an attack in Israel and many people died. Many people are feeling sad, confused, and scared about what happened and is happening in Israel.
 - **School-Aged Children**
A few weeks ago, there was an attack in Israel. Many, many innocent people died in these attacks. This was one of the biggest and worst attacks in a long time. Because Israel is much smaller than the United States, the impact of this attack was very large. Since the attacks, Israel declared war on the group that organized the attack. This group is called Hamas. In Israel, many people have been called on to defend Israel. This has been very scary for many families.
- Validate children's feelings and reassure children that they are safe.
 - It is okay if you feel sad, scared, worried, or confused about what is going on in Israel. What is happening is far away, but still can feel scary for Jews all around the world. Our Jewish

community is very strong – we support each other during happy times, but also during scary times. It is important to remember that we are not alone.

- Even though there is a war going on in Israel, we are safe here in our community. Our community takes our safety very seriously. It is still safe to go to school, to The J, to a synagogue, or to any other place in our community, Jewish or not Jewish.
- You may see more police or security guards at Jewish spaces. This is not because we are in danger. This is their way of helping us stay safe and making sure that we know that our community cares about us.