

#OnwardHebrew: In the words of education directors

How do directors know #OnwardHebrew is successful?

Children are demonstrating competency:

- "I've seen an increase in the skills that children have . . . they are showing more confidence when moving into B'Mitzvah prep and more comfort reading new things."
- "We find that when children reach B'Mitzvah we are not eliminating prayers the way we used to (*i.e., because children couldn't lead them smoothly*) and children are not sneaking transliteration under the Torah."
- "We now have third graders chanting *Avot V'imahot*; in the past that happened in fifth grade."



Children are showing confidence:

- "They can tap into what they know because of the sound-to-print approach. A child might start by decoding a long word, 'y'ru, y'ru ...' and then smile and say, 'oh, y'rushalayim!'"
- "The children lead their B'Mitzvah 100%. They don't share the *bimah* with anyone. It's all them and it's beautiful to see what they do."

Directors and teachers are changing their assumptions about how children learn Hebrew in part-time/synagogue settings:

- "At our most recent 3rd grade *kabbalat siddur* (*when they are presented with a personal prayerbook*), the children did well - some had memorized the Hebrew, some were decoding, some used transliteration. I used to be concerned that the children weren't using the Hebrew to decode, but I have relaxed and see the progress of all!"

Positive feelings abound!



- "Hebrew is now alive, as compared to the traditional decoding slog. There's an exciting story to be told!"
- "Parents and children are less frustrated."
- "Teachers are happy."
- "Children want to come, in spite of some parents who have a (*bleeped out word!*) attitude towards Hebrew." :-D
- "... there is excitement about the program."