

# Swim Lessons:

## A Portal into Jewish Parental Obligations

Source Sheet by Ari Lev Fornari

### Deuteronomy 6:4-9

(4) HEAR, O ISRAEL YHVH IS OUR GOD, YHVH IS ONE. (5) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (6) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; (7) **and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (8) And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. (9) And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates.

### דברים ו':ד'-ט'

(ד) ש' מַעַיִשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יי אֶתְחַדָּד: (ה) וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־לֵבְךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל־מְאֹדְךָ: (ו) וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶנְצִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם עָלֶיךָ לְבָבְךָ: (ז) וְשָׂנַתְּ לְבָבְךָ וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשֵׁבִיתְךָ וּבְיַתְרְךָ וּבְיֹצֵאתְךָ וּבְיָסוּדְךָ: (ח) וְקָשַׁתְּם לְאָזְנוֹתְךָ עַל־יְדֵיךָ: (ט) וְכָתַבְתָּם עַל־זוֹתְבֵי־יְתָרְךָ וּבַעֲרָךְ:

#### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you instructed to teach diligently to your children?
2. What would you say you try to "teach diligently" to your children?
3. A more literal translation of that verse would say, "teach through oral repetition to your children." Does that change the meaning for you?

### Proverbs 22:6

(6) Train up a child in the way s/he should go, And even when s/he is old, s/he will not depart from it.

### משלי כ"ב:ו'

(ו) חַנּוּךְ לֵב־עַרְעַר עַל־פִּי דַרְכּוֹ גַם כִּי־יִבֹזֵקוּן ל' אִי־סוּר מִמֶּנּוּ:

#### Questions for Discussion:

1. According to Proverbs, what is your task as a parent?

### Kiddushin 29a

A [parent] is obligated to do the following for [their child]: to circumcise him, to redeem him if he is a first born, to teach him/her Torah, to find him/her a partner, and to teach him/her a trade. Others say: teaching him/her how to swim as well. Rabbi Yehuda says, One who does not teach [their child] a trade, it is as if s/he taught him/her

### קידושין כט.

האב חייב בבנו למולו ולפדותו וללמדו תורה ולהשיאו אשה וללמדו אומנות וי"א אף להשיטו במים רבי יהודה אומר כל שאינו מלמד את בנו אומנות מלמדו ליסטות

thievery.

*Questions for Discussion:*

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1. According to the Talmud, what 6 things are you responsible for as a parent?
2. What would you expect to find on this list? What is missing from this list?
3. Why "teach to swim"?
4. What 6 things do you feel obligated to do for your children?



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