

Hanukkah Activities



Storytelling Families usually celebrate Hanukkah together, and this gives your residents the opportunity to regale others with stories of holidays gone by. Ask your residents to share personal stories or talk about the history of Hanukkah

Hanukkah Mystery Bag Take a paper bag and place a few small Hanukkah-themed items inside the bag. You can use common household items as well as the Hanukkah items. Blindfold the first player and give them one of the items from the bag for them to guess what the item is.



Read Aloud Invite local children to visit with your residents during Hanukkah for a read aloud or some buddy reading. Some books that your young visitors might enjoy are *Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat*; *When Mindy Saved Hanukkah*; *Latke the Lucky Dog*; *The Dreidel that Wouldn't Spin*; *Moishe's Miracle*; *Alexandra's Scroll*; and *Magic Menorah*.

Menorah Candles Instead of buying candles for the menorah, have your residents make dip candles. They can be made any size or color. [Dip candles](#)



Hanukkah Basket Create Hanukkah baskets to be delivered to hospital patients.



Fill the basket with Hanukkah goodies, such as a dreidel, menorah candles, macaroons, gelt, blessing, etc.

Olive Tasting Invite residents and family members for an olive and olive oil tasting party. Include different types of olives and different flavors of olive oil. Be sure to provide bread for dipping.



Gelt Checkers Replace black and red checker pieces with silver and gold Hanukkah gelt. Play checkers as usual.



Hot Dreidel Have participants sit in a circle and give one person a dreidel to start. Play music while participants pass the dreidel to one another. When the music stops, the person holding it is out of the game. Before leaving the circle, he or she shares one fact about the dreidel. The last person sitting in the circle wins



Spin the Dreidel The most popular game during Hanukkah is a game of chance, the spinning of the Dreidel. Each Hebrew letter on the four-sided top/Dreidel stands for a game action:

- N (nun) = Get nothing from the kitty.
- G (gimel) = Get everything from the kitty.
- H (he) = Get half of the kitty.
- S (shin) = Put half the money in the kitty.



Chocolate Gelt Hide and Seek Hide the chocolate gelt in spots around the room, while folks are involved in other activities. Bring them in to search for the hidden gelt. Make sure to tell them how many coins are hidden. The person who finds the most coins wins the game.

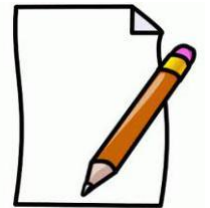


Pin the Candle on the Menorah Instead of a donkey and its tail, take turns getting the center candle on the Menorah. Make the menorah and candles using colored felt or construction paper.



Hanukkah Anagrams

In a given amount of time, see which player can come up with the most words formed from the letters in "*Chanukah*." Use pencils and paper; no letter may be used more times than it appears in "*Chanukah*." This game may be played with other *Chanukah* words as well.



Word Scramble Take words that have to do with Hanukkah and jumble up the letters. Put them on paper and the first person to unscramble the words correctly wins! Here are some examples of words you could use: Candles, Gifts, Jerusalem, Kislev, Menorah, Miracle, Songs, Blessing, Torah, Coins, Dreidel, Holiday, Hebrew, Praise, Eight, Lights, Prayers, Nun, Gimel, Hey, Shin, Hanukkah, Star of David.

Forbidden Word Game Residents and staff will enjoy this game at a Hanukkah gathering. You will need stickers for each of the participants. Place one sticker to the clothing of each person in a place that is visible. When everyone is ready, tell them that for the rest of the day they cannot say a certain word. If someone catches them saying the word, they can take their sticker and keep it. Remember to use a word that will be used all night, such as Hanukkah, light, oil, family or menorah. At the end of the night, the person with the most stickers wins a prize.