



NETWORK
of Jewish Human
Service Agencies



SACRED SPACES

Building A Collective Landscape

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

ABOUT US



SACRED SPACES

National Organization

Jewish Institutions

Abuses of Power

Across Denominations & Lifespan

OUR APPROACH



HANDOUT

How Children are Valued in the Jewish Tradition

In this thought-provoking essay, Rabbi David Rosen discusses the centrality of children in the Jewish tradition.



Rabbi David Rosen, KSG, CBE is the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and currently serves as the director of the American Jewish Committee's Department of International Interreligious Affairs.

Judaism views childhood as a period of purity, joy, and beauty to be valued and cherished. The Talmud states that, "childhood is a garland of roses" and that, "the very breath of children is free of sin." (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 152, 119).

As Judaism recognizes that a child does not have the cognitive ability to fully distinguish good from evil, the parent has the ultimate responsibility of guiding the child in keeping with the words in Deuteronomy 11:19, "And you shall teach them (the words of God)

Best Practice 2

Create Opportunities for
Community Dialogue

Goal 1

Root Your Work in Jewish
Tradition

OBJECTIVES

Read and discuss Rabbi David
Rosen's essay on the centrality of
children in the Jewish tradition.

SETTING

Committee meeting, chabura
text study, shiur/class, sermon,
other community dialogue

TIME

- Grounded in Jewish text and values
- Proactive and deep commitment to healthy Jewish communities.
- Transparency, accountability, and support.
- Cultural shift.

WHAT WE DO



Readiness



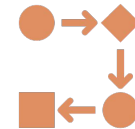
Assessment



Codification



Training



Evaluation &
Review



SACRED SPACES

לא עליך המלאכה לגמור ולא אתה בן חורין להבטל ממנה.
It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither may you desist.

~ R' Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:16



My Progress Here's your current progress | Started October 28, 2019

● Completed ● In Progress

Dashboard

Glossary

Participants

My Team

My Account

COMPLETE 



Getting Started

completed May 14, 2020

Available Aug 24, 2020

COMPLETE 



1. Form a Child Safety Committee

completed July 15, 2020

Available Oct 20, 2020

COMPLETE 



2. Create Opportunities for Community Dialogue

completed July 15, 2020

Available Nov 2, 2020

GOAL 1: LEARN ABOUT SCREENING




3. Screen Employees and Volunteers

20% complete

Available Nov 19, 2020

Available Sep 21, 2020



4. Assess your Space

Available Dec 14, 2020

ALEINU: SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

SACRED SYNAGOGUES



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- Cross-Denominations Cohort
- Comprehensive Training
 - Best practices in screening and hiring, prevention and education, response protocols, and victim/survivor support.
- Individualized Guidance
 - Establishing safety committees, developing value statements, and creating plans for policy implementation and maintenance.
 - Red-Line Review.

COMING SOON

POLICY TOOLKIT

- Online policy toolkit to create respectful, healthy, and safe environments for employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.
- SRE
- Beta-testing.

JUDAIC STUDY GUIDE

- Collection of texts and commentaries that relate to respect, responsibility, and institutional abuses of power.
- Center for Jewish Ethics, Reconstructing Judaism.
- Jewish professionals and lay leaders across the denominational spectrum.

RESOURCE SERIES

Community
Organizations

Long-Term Care &
Medical Facilities

Family Members &
Caregivers

www.JewishSacredSpaces.org



**COVID-19 & Elder Abuse
Resource Series**

Creating Sacred Spaces for Our Elders



SACRED SPACES

FOCUS

- Knowledge
- Assistance
- Commitment
- Creative & communal responses
- Prevention through policy and self-care



SUPPORT STAFF

Staff members face risks to their own health while serving as the primary support systems for residents. They may also face risks from volunteers abusing their power in long-term care facilities such as:

unsafe situation.



Elders may have no access to cash for a multitude of reasons. They also may not use online shopping or banking platforms or apps that transfer money directly for

To meet the staffing demands created by COVID-19, a few standards have been lessened, such as lifting some of the credentialing requirements for direct-care workers.¹⁷ These moves can be a relief for institutions but can also introduce new risks for elder abuse. To maintain safeguards, institutions must screen all potential volunteers and employees before granting to residents. Check each applicant's references, confirm past employment, and conduct necessary background checks. Inquire as to whether there has been any prior issues with interpersonal boundaries or concerns about abusive or neglectful behavior.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Mandatory Training

Offer mandatory training on identifying and reporting elder abuse. Utilize scenarios and role plays to make learning more interactive and relevant to current events. Build relationships with local Jewish organizations¹⁸ that have expertise in elder abuse and can assist in training.

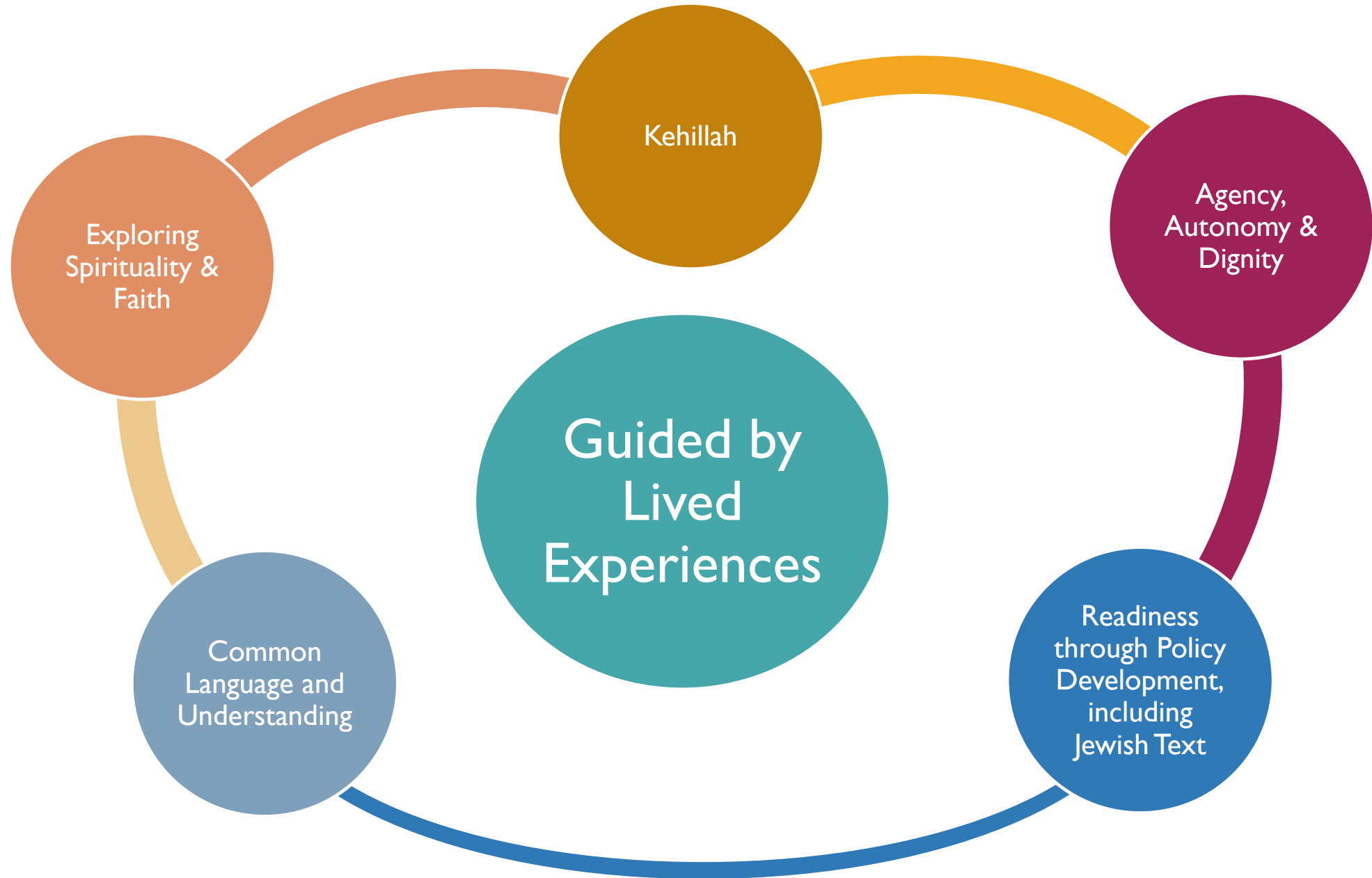
Reporting System

Establish and maintain a reporting system for formally reporting suspicion of abuse. Identify who at the institution has a **legal duty** to report elder abuse and establish protocols for **reporting** both internally and to the **authorities**.

Policies and Protocols

RECENT STUDIES

- Older people are more likely to live alone in the U.S. than elsewhere in the world. (Pew, March 2020)
- One of the disturbing social consequences of COVID-19 includes a significant rise of ageism. (Malik, Mansoor, et. al, September 2020)
- 83.6% increase in prevalence since pandemic. One in five older persons in the study reported elder abuse. (Chang, E-Shien, et. al, January 2021)
- Found that older persons with a stronger sense of community were less likely to experience abuse during the pandemic.



“The test of spirituality... is not how the community receives the most powerful, but how it welcomes the most vulnerable.”

Rabbi Avi Weiss

Creating Sacred Communities Together



SACRED SPACES

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