JEWISH EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH EDUCATION

Introduction to Education

Jewish parents are required to give their children a Jewish education. Historically, most children learned what to do by observing their parents in their homes. Now, much Jewish education takes place in schools.

JEWISH EDUCATION: GIL CHINUCH

What Is Gil Chinuch

Age of Jewish education (*gil chinuch*) is when a child is old enough to understand the concept behind whatever *halacha* or observance is being taught (and not just what to say or what to do).

When Is Gil Chinuch

The age of Jewish education (*gil chinuch*) is more or less 6 years old but may vary with the intelligence, personality, and maturity of the child and with the particular *halachic* principle involved.

Who Determines Gil Chinuch

Whoever is teaching is permitted to judge what the child might understand. *RMH* does not approve of teaching children before they can understand. The only exception is that as soon as children start to speak, they should be taught the first sentence of the *shema* and "*Torah tziva lanu Moshe*.…".

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