

Suggestions to prepare for the סדר

1. Think how to set up סדר for technical success.
2. Make a list of things that need to be done on ערב יו"ט.
3. You want the kids to WANT to be there.
4. Try to get the kids to be involved in the prep. The more that they are involved, the more they are going to look forward. It could be making the charoses, preparing place cards, preparing the Shiruim etc...
5. Get a laminator. This will give kids projects to keep them busy and help them prepare for Pesach. You can use it for projects, cards, to hand out at the סדר etc...
6. Get "sticky notes". This is very helpful for marking the points that you (or your children) want to speak about. You can also give these to your children and tell them, I want to hear every Dvar Torah, but at the Seder we are going to limit it to X number per child and make sure that make time to hear the rest of the Divrey Torah from your Child. Do this a few days before פסח and this will allow the סדר to move more smoothly.
7. Remember, while all the props and games are nice, **the real מצות is to say over the story of יציאת מצרים**.
8. Plan seating in advance (place cards are a great idea).
9. You have to have a Goal of the סדר, (it might be for the kids to walk out KNOWING that 'ה loves them. Make a sign that says HLM).
10. Print out your own הגדה. Go on line and print your own הגדה, this way you can add notes and stories of **what** and ***when*** you plan on doing during the סדר.

11. Plan for the סדר, make sure you and wife are on the same page, that means that all the Props, needs to be planned in advance. Write it down in your own הגדה, where and what you are planning to do. For example, at what point during the סדר do you plan to get up and run out of "מצרים".
12. The kids should take a nap, preferably a late nap (You know the ones you HATE when your kids take)
13. One way to get the older kids involved (when you also have younger ones) is to make them "leaders", put them in charge of השוב things to do. IE make them the מצרי slave master.
14. Prepare the Shiurim for the מצה ומרור: The night before the סדר, take a count of all the people that are going to be at your סדר (or סדרים), then take lettuce (or whatever you will be using for מרור) and measure it out, and place them in a zip lock bag, you will need for מרור and כורך. Do the same for מצה. You will need for מצה, כורך, you may want to prepare for אפיקומן as well. (you also have the option of weighing everything on a scale before פסח)
15. Open all the bottles of wine before יו"ט, you may want to get bottle stoppers.
16. Make two boxes, write on the outside of one, WHOLE or שלם and on the other one, BROKEN. Constantly refill these boxes.
17. Post a sign of preassigned jobs, who brings water to wash your hands, handing out karpas, bracha of hadama, who decides which side is bigger, Announcing סימני הסדר, Fill Abba's Cup, Remind not to make bracha, Karpas distribution, Announce not to eat kzais karpas, Announce to have in mind for maror, Final decision on yachatz, First to say ma nishtana, Announce to lift kos and cover Matza, Count number of dipping in wine, Bring water for rachtza, Remind not to talk until after korech, Bring towel, Egg

waiter/waitresses, Keeping track of chatzos, Open door for Eliyahu (Maybe everyone?)

18. DON'T SET THE TABLE. All people need is a הגדה and a כוס and plate under the כוס. Setting the table is not good for technical success.
19. Prepare a piece of paper with prizes (a lot of them), ices from ice cream truck, can of soda, token at batting cage, paint ball, soda or the family etc...
20. "Keep focused cards" Have cards that say, "hand in this card at.... to receive a שקל" give the older kids ones that say "ask a question about...."
21. Put things on the table to make the children ask questions (IE a straw etc...)
22. Have your children write a story, either what life was like growing up in מצרים, or what it is was like to grow up as a מצרי and seeing the Jews suffer, or what it was like leaving the ים סוף. What they saw, let them go into all the details. Have them read this at the סדר. (if you have guests at your סדר then you can have your child write this letter to a grandparent or cousin, and during the seder, say "Zaidy you've got mail" and that person can read the letter then}
23. Print out pictures of all the animals in Chad Gad Yah. Hand out pictures, and when you get to that animal, the person who has the picture has to make that sound.