



## A Dreidel

The dreidel pattern, shown here on the next page, was reproduced using light weight oak tag. After an explanation, children were supplied with many triangles on a sheet of paper equaling the size of the triangles on the dreidel pattern. They were told to experiment with a design for the triangles in the dreidel. They were to keep making them until there was one they liked the best. Next, they were to make their best one eight times on each triangle on their dreidel pattern. The Hebrew word in each triangle should be at the bottom of their design. They should not fill in the numbered tabs.

Next, there was a lesson on cutting out the pattern. They were told to keep their eyes not on the edge being cut but on the tip of the scissors as they placed the tip along a black line each time before they cut. Most could accomplish this but some helped others and after I collected them, I cut whatever was needed to replace some poorly cut ones. No child gave any indication that his own was replaced.

Then mother volunteers, assistant teacher, and I folded every black line on each one, folding under the tabs and gluing it together. I had bought  $\frac{1}{4}$ , I think was the size, of doweling cut into 6 or 7 lengths with one end sharpened in a pencil sharpener. A pointed stick was inserted through each dreidel.

This was a favorite activity of mine. We had been exploring symmetry and when this dreidel was finished, it showed symmetry in two ways: first by looking at it from the top of the doweling and then by holding it sideways. The designs were elegant and each dreidels symmetrical design was shared with all.