



BET SHALOM
CONGREGATION

Keeping Our Children Safe in Virtual Spaces

As we adapt to new ways of connecting, we must also adjust the tools we use to keep community members safe from emotional and sexual abuse. During this time of social distancing, we are online more than ever. People seeking to harm vulnerable members of our community are aware of the stresses and vulnerabilities associated with this new reality. The following guidelines have been adapted from the Camp Teko Safe Communities initiative.

Guidelines for Families

- When possible, children should be online in an area of the house where other people are present, like a kitchen or living room. Even if everyone at home is on a meeting with headphones on, being in a more public space allows for others to quickly see what is on a screen.
- Asking your children with whom they are interacting online and checking in with them after online meetings keeps pathways of communication open for your child to express any thoughts, from technical challenges and great facts they learned, to questions they have, or a situation in which they might have felt uncomfortable.
- If your children are in a bedroom or office, keep the door open and point the screen and camera toward the door, so someone is able to easily see the screen if they walk into the room.
- To maintain your child's privacy, your child should not use their full name in any public online profile (such as a Zoom conference) and instead should either use their first name only, your first name only, or initials.

Expectations for Families

- Your child should be appropriately dressed with their face visible on camera.
- Unless the learning involves movement, such as Hebrew Through Movement, ideally, only your child's head and upper torso should be in view and the child should be sitting upright.
- An appropriate background should be visible.
- If your child must be in a bedroom, we recommend they sit in a chair or on the floor, not in a bed.

Expectations for Staff

- Our educators, clergy, and staff members will continue to receive ongoing training in best practices safeguarding our children.
- Staff will welcome any parent/guardian to observe a program or meeting
- Staff will actively remind children to uphold the expectations above.