# Swim Lessons:

## A Portal into Jewish Parental Obligations

Source Sheet by Ari Lev Fornari

## **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

(4) HEAR, O ISRAEL YHVH IS OUR GOD, YHVH IS ONE. (5) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (6) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; (7) and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (8) And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. (9) And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates.

#### דברים וי:די-טי

(ד) שֹׁ מְעֵּעִי שׁ רְרָאֲלֹיִי אֵבֵל הֻינוּ יִי וֹ אֶחְ, ד: (ה)
וֹ אֲהַבַּ הְּ אֶתִּ יִי אֵבֻל הֻיִּדְ בּ כִּלְדֹל בַבַּ הְ וֹ בּ כָּלְדֹל בַבַּ הְ וֹ וֹבַ כָּלְדִּ בַּ הְּיִוֹי הַ דִּ בְּרָים נַפְּשׁ הְ בָּ וֹ בִּ כָּלִדמ אְ דֹּ דְּן: (ו) וֹ ְהִיִּוֹי הַדִּ בְּרָים הּאֲלֹּ הָ הִאְבָּשׁׁךְ אֹנִ כְיִ מֹצְוֹי , בָּ הֹיֵוֹם עַלְדֹּ בַּלְּלְ הֹאְבָשׁׁךְ אֹנִ כְיִ מֹצְוֹי , בָּ הֹיֵוֹם עַלְדֹּ בַּבַּ הְבָי (ז) וֹ שְׁ נִנּ נַ נְתְּם לְבַנְּיִדְ וֹ זְדִבּ רַרְ הְּתָּבַ בְּבִי תְּעֵּבְ לֹבְנֶיתְ וֹ זְדְבַבּ בְּיִתְּעָבְ בְּבִּי בְּיִתְּבַ בְּבִּי תְּבָּבְ וֹ בִּבְלְ כִּתְ הְּנָבְ וֹ בְּבְּבְּי וְבִּבְּי וְבִּבְּבְ וֹ בְּבְלְיכִ תְּחַ בְּבְּי עְיֵנְ יִדְרָ וֹ הְבִוֹי לִנְם טֹּבְּתְ בְּיִנְ עֵינְ יִדְרָ: (ט)
לְּאָוֹת עַלִּדִי דֶדְךָ וֹ ְהְיֵוֹי לִ מִט טַבְּתַ בְּיִן עֵינְ יִדְרָ: (ט)
וֹכְתְ בַבְּתָּם עַלִּרִם זְוֹת בּי יִתֶּךְ וֹ בִּיתָרָ וֹבִישׁ עָרָר, יִדְרָ:

## Questions for Discussion:

- 1. What are you instructed to teach diligently to your children?
- 2. What would you say you try to "teach diligently" to your children?
- 3. A more literal translation of that verse would say, "teach through oral repetition to your children." Does that change the meaning for you?

#### Proverbs 22:6

(6) Train up a child in the way s/he should go, And even when s/he is old, s/he will not depart from it.

## משלי כ״ב:ו׳

(ו) חְרָנֶדְ, לֻנּי עַר עַל־פָּי דַרְ כָּוֹ גָּם כּיִּיִּזְ ְלִּין לֹּ אִדִי ָסְוּר מִמּ ֶ נִי ָה:

## Questions for Discussion:

1. According to Proverbs, what is your task as a parent?

## Kiddushin 29a

A [parent] is obligated to do the following for [their child]: to circumcise him, to redeem him if he is a first born, to teach him/her Torah, to find him/her a partner, and to teach him/her a trade.

Others say: teaching him/her how to swim as well.

Rabbi Yehuda says, One who does not teach [their child] a trade, it is as if s/he taught him/her

## קידושין כט.

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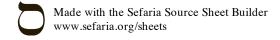
האב חייב בבנו למולו ולפדותו וללמדו תורה ולהשיאו אשה וללמדו אומנות וי"א אף להשיטו במים רבי יהודה אומר כל שאינו מלמד את בנו אומנות מלמדו ליסטות

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# Questions for Discussion:

- 1. According to the Talmud, what 6 things are you responsible for as a parent?
- 2. What would you expect to find on this list? What is missing from this list?
- 3. Why "teach to swim"?
- 4. What 6 things do you feel obligated to do for your children?



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