

CHINUCH AGES

— from —

EFFECTIVE PARENTING FOR CHASSIDISHE FAMILIES

By **Rabbi Michoel Gourarie**

The following list is a general outline of ages when children should be introduced to various Yiddishe and Chassidishe practices. Chassidim would not introduce all practices to younger children, in fact, they would specifically delay them so that the children would look forward to the time when they could do them.

- ➔ Naturally, different children and specific circumstances will vary. It's therefore important for each family to have a Rov or Chassidishe Mechanech with knowledge of our longstanding mesorah to offer specific guidance.
- ➔ As a rule, if a child resists or displays resentment in doing something, it's usually a sign that they are not yet ready for that practice.

PRACTICE	AGE	NOTE
Neggel Vasser by the Bed	4-7	This is something to start early as soon as a child can do it without making a big mess
Sitting in Shul	6-7	Can spend some time in shul and then play outside
Tzitzis at Night	10-11	This is often difficult and is not normally done early
Wool Tzitzis	10-12	
Davening Shmoneh Esrei	School	Normally begins in school with saying part of Shmoneh Esrei first
Bracha Acharona		"Brich" - after bread, early Borei Nefashos, 7-8 Al Hamichya, when ready
Asher Yatzar		After used to saying other brachos and when ready
Full Birkas Hamazon	8-10	But depends on child - don't push it too early unless they want
Krias Shma Bizmana	6/7	This is <i>mitzvah min haTorah</i> so start at the age of "chinuch" for mitzvos
Mikvah Erev Shabbos	Over 10	
Mikvah Daily	12/13	
Tehillim on Shabbos Mevorchim		When ready, but start small with the goal of being able to say the whole Tehillim when Bar Mitzvah
Shnayim Mikra		Start encouraging to do a portion at 8-9 and increase slowly
Gebrochts	4-5	Younger children aren't served <i>gebroids</i> , but no need to stop them from getting their own matza wet

