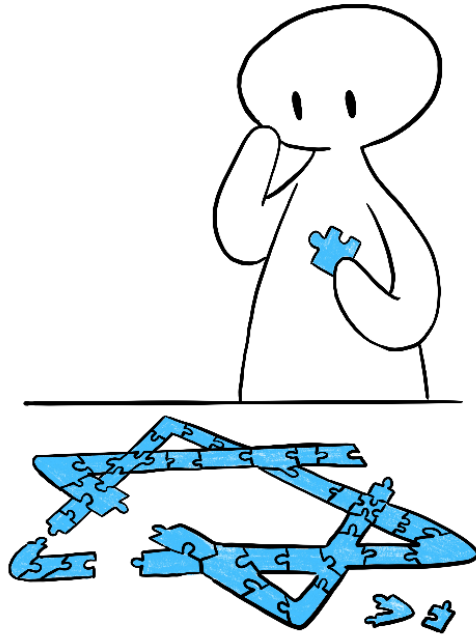


# David Cards



It is now easier to talk about Israel and how it  
feels to be Jewish

Education Resource Guide – February 2025

**David Cards - A thought-provoking toolkit for Jewish and Israel educators seeking to inspire meaningful conversations about Jewish identity, Israel, and Jewish Peoplehood.**

The **David Cards** set was created to help Jewish educators lead honest and meaningful conversations focused on three key questions:

1. How do I view my Jewish identity today?
2. What is my relationship with Israel?
3. How do I view my personal connection with other Jews around the world?

With the attached creative illustrations, the David Cards set offers educators and participants the opportunity to engage in sincere and expressive conversations about complex, and often sensitive questions. David Cards successfully removes obstacles from challenging topics and encourage meaningful dialogue for a wide range of age-groups (from teens to adults) and diverse participants.

This educational tool was developed by **Yoni Alon**, and illustrated by the Israeli artist, **Sapir Wiener Aviv**. It was created as a joint program with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and with the support of AMI - The National Alliance Strengthening Israelis' Connection to World Jewry.



The National Alliance  
Strengthening Israelis'  
Connection to World Jewry

המנהלת הלאומית  
לקשרי ישראלים  
והתפוצות



## How does it work?

Participants are asked to **imagine the relationship between them, and the symbol of the Star of David (Magen David) depicted in the illustrations in front of them.** The Star of David can be used to symbolize Judaism, Israel, Israeli Jews, or the global Jewish community. At any point the educator may redesignates the meaning of the Star of David, changing the focus of the discussion accordingly.

**The cards may be used to describe three main relationships:**

- **Judaism & Me**
- **Israel & Me**
- **World Jewry / Israeli Jews & Me**

## Suggestions for use

1. Set the expectations for the conversation in advance.
2. Choose which relationship you want to focus on first.
3. Define the meaning of the Star of David accordingly (Judaism, Israel, World Jewry, or Israeli Jews).
4. To ensure that each illustration is a surprising and impactful trigger, we recommend defining the chosen symbolism before revealing the illustrations.
5. Display the cards - once the meanings are set, either lay the cards face-up on the floor or hang them on a wall where everyone can see them.
6. You may use the cards in small groups of 3-5 people or within larger group discussions to encourage deep conversations.

Here is an example of how to use the set with a group of Jewish teens, focusing on the theme "Judaism and Me." The educator may guide the session as follows:

- For the next 30 minutes, I invite each of us to delve into our feelings and perspectives regarding our Jewish identity.
- The illustrations on the cards you are about to see represent various ways one might connect with their Jewish identity, symbolized by the Star of David.
- As the students sit in a circle, the educator places the cards face up, scattered on the floor within the circle.
- The educator continues - Take a moment to observe the different illustrations before you. Consider what each one represents. Ask yourself: What is depicted in each? How do you interpret these various relationships with Jewish identity?

**Here are some more examples of prompts that can be used in such conversation:**

1. Reflect on your current Jewish identity. Think about what it means to you to be Jewish today. Which card reflects that? Please pick it up and share your thoughts with the group.
2. Select a card that depicts a relationship with Judaism that is different from your own experience. Share this card and explain why it stands out to you.
3. Find a card that captures what your relationship with Judaism used to be like. Discuss how this relationship has changed or evolved over time.
4. Look at the different cards. Which one of them brings up a strong memory you hold? Share it with us.
5. Look at the different cards. Which one of them brings up a strong feeling or emotion? Share it with us.
6. Do you think any perspectives or experiences are missing in these illustrations? What or who is not represented here? What would you add to complete this set?

**Feel like the conversation has reached its purpose?** “Reset” the discussion by redefining the activity and choosing another relationship to focus on.

For example, collect the cards, place them on the floor again, and say: "I invite you to imagine now that the cards in front of you **describe your relationship with Israel** (and not with Judaism). Take a fresh look at the illustrations and ask yourself – Where do I see my relationship with Israel? Which of these illustrations resonates with me most when I think of Israel?"

Ask the participants to choose new cards and restart the discussion. You can then reapproach the prompts presented above and edit them to discuss Israel instead of Judaism.

### **Additional educational tips**

*Inspired by the teachings of The iCenter in Chicago*

1. The cards foster a student-centered experience — learners are at the heart of the activity, receiving opportunities to share their opinions, thoughts, and feelings with their peers.
2. Make space to allow participants to take ownership of their story and become leaders in their own Jewish journey.
3. Create a safe and brave environment for your activity that will foster effective dialogue. Encourage participants to voice their thoughts while being sure to keep an open mind to and stay respectful of different opinions.
4. Don't focus solely on positive feelings and connections between the learner and a specific illustration. Encourage participants to share their thoughts and feelings if there are illustrations that they resent, or even those that make them feel uncomfortable - "*Outside of the comfort zone there is great potential for quality growth. When talking about Israel - get comfortable to feel uncomfortable*" (Dr. Zohar Raviv).

### Proposed questions for the program summary

1. As we switched from one relationship to another (for example - moving from discussing our Jewish identity to discussing our relationship with Israel) what differences did you see between the way you each relate to the relationship at hand? Is there something we can say as a group about our feelings towards these two different topics?
2. Could you point to an illustration that had a totally different meaning for you when we shifted from one relationship to another? Tell us how.
3. Did you learn or discover something new while listening to your friends about their thoughts and feelings regarding the different illustrations?
4. Would you say something within you has changed because of the things you heard today?

### Additional ways of use

1. **Through Art** - Sometime during the activity, you may hand out blank papers and encourage participants to add illustrations of their own based on interpretation of the David Cards. Ask the participants to share their creations with the room.
2. **Storytelling** - Divide the participants into groups and give each group 4 to 6 cards. Ask the groups to come up with a story about either Israel or Judaism (an improvised script) that connects between the cards they got and explains what happens to the main character in each card as the plot goes on. Encourage the participants to present the story they created to their friends.
3. **Card after card** - In small groups of less than 10 participants, you may use the cards in a slightly different way. Present the cards to the participants in a "card after card" manner, where you reveal one card at a time and ask the participants "what do you see here?". This is an interesting way to show the group that different people interpret the same illustration in different ways.

## A moment of gratitude and more information

I'm grateful to Israeli illustrator Sapir Wiener Aviv, whose wisdom and sensitivity brought depth to illustrating the complex relationships surrounding both Judaism and Israel.

Thanks to the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and The National Alliance Strengthening Israelis' Connection to World Jewry (AMI) for supporting this project. Thanks to the Jewish community of Colorado and the Denver JCC, that within its walls the first version of this project was born.

You may reach to **Sapir Wiener Aviv** at [sapirwin@gmail.com](mailto:sapirwin@gmail.com)

## About the creator of David Cards



Yoni Alon is in the business of building bridges between Israelis and non-Israeli Jews, while creating creative content in the field of Israel and Jewish Education. He was an Israeli Shaliach / Emissary with the Jewish Agency for Israel at the Denver JCC (2013-2015), prior to that, he served in the IDF for seven and a half years (Maj res.). Throughout his military service, he acted in various roles, including as a liaison officer in the International Cooperation Unit of the IDF. He has been working independently since 2017 with many Jewish nonprofits on various educational projects.

For more information, additional instructions & suggestions, or to request a live online tutorial for you and your educators, please contact **Yoni Alon** at [creativealon@gmail.com](mailto:creativealon@gmail.com)

As of February 2025, this document is available as a PDF file in the following languages: Hebrew, English, French, Spanish, Russian, German, Ukrainian, Polish and Amharic.

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