

Kabbalah Alef Bais Curriculum and Cards

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What's in a Hebrew letter?

Just as a builder uses wood, nails, and stone to build a home, Hashem uses the 22 letters of the Alef Bais (Hebrew alphabet), each an articulation of Divine creative energy, to constantly create and recreate the universe. Each letter holds countless mystical—yet relevant and practical—secrets, stories that can guide and inspire us as we inhabit G-d's physical world.

Welcome aboard your Kabbalah Alef Bais journey! Read below to find out what these cards are all about and how to make the most of them.

What sets these cards apart from other Alef Bais letter cards?

Within these 32 cards lies a rich curriculum through which some of the most mystical Kabbalistic and Chassidic concepts have been distilled and presented in a manner that is accessible and relatable even to young and novice learners. Following the instructions below will allow for all kinds of learners to become familiar with and internalize the names, utility, and stories of each of the letters of the Alef Bais (Hebrew alphabet) in a memorable and spiritual way. Additionally, to extend your knowledge and gain insight as to the significance of the key words, we suggest you refer to the resources listed below.

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A Closer Look at What's Inside

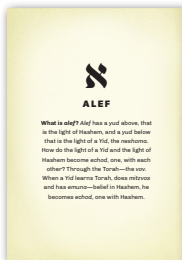
Each of the 32 Kabbalah Alef Bais cards in this set has the following four components:



A1 Black letter on white background (with the letter's name printed beneath it): When G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish People at Mount Sinai, the letters were of black fire atop white fire. Therefore, according to Jewish tradition, the Alef Bais should be taught using black letters on a white background.



A2 Illustrated letter (with the letter-picture's key word title printed beneath it): The thought-provoking rendering of each letter incorporates its "story."



B1 The story of the letter: This highly distilled nugget of Kabbalah and Chassidic thought highlights some of the letter's attributes and teachings.



B2 Key words: While each letter begins countless words, these have been selected due to their connection to the "story."

Whom are these cards for?

The vibrant, thought-provoking illustrations and concise explanations in the Kabbalah Alef Bais cards can easily be understood by very young children, and can be appreciated with further depth by adults of all ages and backgrounds.

When can these cards be used?

The Kabbalah Alef Bais cards can be used in an individual or group setting at home, school, or camp as a complete standalone Alef Bais literacy program, or to complement other Alef Bais curriculums.

RESOURCES

Multimedia

The Kabbalah of Every One of the Letters of the Hebrew Alphabet, by Tzvi Freeman

<https://www.chabad.org/kabbalatoons> (scroll down and click on the KabAlefBet! menu)

Books

Ginsburgh, Y. (1977). *The Alef-Beit: Jewish Thought Revealed through the Hebrew Letters*. Maryland: Jason Aronson.

Leitner, D. (2007). *Understanding the Alef-Beis: Insights into the Hebrew Letters and Methods for Interpreting Them*. New York: Feldheim Publishers.

Munk, M. M. (1986). *The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet*. New York: Artscroll (Mesorah).

Nemtsov, M. Z. (2013). *The Articulated Alef-Bais: An Illustrated Glimpse into the Mystical Meanings of the Hebrew Alphabet*.

Raskin, A. L. (1998). *Letters of Light: A Mystical Journey Through the Hebrew Alphabet*. New York: Sichos in English.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Multisensory Experience

Begin with the letter Alef on Side A1. First, introduce the letter by name. Then, provide the learners with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the letter by tracing it on the card and repeating its name.

Step 2: Story and Discussion

Show the learners Side A2 while you read the story on B1. Discuss what the letter means to you and how its story applies to your life. For example, with the letter Bais, you can relate that when you host a Torah gathering in your home, you feel your home fill with light.

Step 3: Expression

Provide the learners with opportunities to demonstrate their comprehension of the letter's story. Invite learners to express their understanding creatively by drawing, painting, or sculpting with clay on letter outlines (download for free from Walder Education at bit.ly/3gQOxPv). Learners can also express their understanding through drama, dance, poetry, or any other means.

Step 4: Letter Utility

Read the Hebrew key words on the cards. Invite the learners to find words in the classroom, Siddur, or Chumash that contain the given letter. Learners can also sort pictures and objects according to the first letter of their names.

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To purchase, please visit
www.scenicrouteliteracy.com/products

Kabbalah Alef Bais Curriculum and Cards are dedicated to all the wonderful teachers that help children learn the holy Alef Bais and help them realize their love for Hashem and His Torah.