EDUCATOR’S GUIDE

What is the *Shalom Hebrew OLC App*?

Created in conjunction with the Jewish Journey Project, *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* is a digital primer to learn decoding, Hebrew letters, vowels, and keywords. Packed with engaging features, interactive reading exercises that can be recorded and reviewed by educators, and more than a dozen games, *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* makes learning to read Hebrew fun AND effective to students of all ages.

Designed as a universal app, *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* can be used on any PC or Mac desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. The app can be linked to student accounts in the Online Learning Center and lets students choose where they wish to practice—at home, at school, or even in the car—and still allows their progress and recordings to be saved centrally.

*Shalom Hebrew OLC App* follows the same structure, organization, and pedagogy of the *Shalom Uvrachah* materials—*Shalom Uvrachah* and *Shalom Uvrachah Primer Express* (3rd and 4th graders), and *Shalom Hebrew (5th grade and up)*—but it can be also be used as a stand-alone app for Hebrew practice.
How It Works

Each of the 26 lessons centers on a key cultural word or concept and introduces related letters and/or vowels, syllables and words.

Within each lesson, students can:

See letters and vowels they've already learned.
Practice reading aloud

Record themselves and play back

Share their recordings with their teacher

Listen to American or Israeli pronunciation

Do interactive exercises to reinforce visual and auditory Hebrew recognition

Examples:
More exercise examples:

Practice writing Hebrew letters using a mouse or touchscreen

Play five separate games, each with five levels of play, to reinforce Hebrew letter recognition and add an element of fun!
How to Use the *Shalom Hebrew OLC App*

*Shalom Hebrew OLC App* is a valuable digital tool, either as a companion to any of the *Shalom Uvrachah* materials or simply on its own for Hebrew reinforcement. Students can work with it in various settings—in class, at home, in tutoring sessions, or via distance learning—on any kind of device—tablets, smartphones, or laptops—either individually or with a partner.

Hebrew reading is a skill, and brain-based research shows that even five minutes a day of practice will lead to increased confidence and stronger skills. The more opportunities your students have to practice Hebrew reading, the more proficient they will become.

For example, you could read together the pages introducing a new letter, and if you have iPads, then give students a chance to record themselves reading the Hebrew.

The online practice material can also extend the amount of Hebrew learning time into the home. Parents do not need to read Hebrew themselves for their children to use the app! *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* gives students a clear, fun way to practice regularly at home content they started to explore in school.

**Creating an Environment for Success**

To help students get the most out of the resources of the digital supplement, teachers need to reinforce its use. The following strategies can help you use *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* effectively with your students:

- **Set expectations.** Expect students to do their practice work, and reinforce that it’s not optional. Make this clear to families at the start of the school year and keep parents in the loop about how often their children are practicing, and the results they achieve when they do.

- **Build comfort level for all users.** Demonstrate for students how to sign into the OLC and have all students log in during class to ensure everyone knows how to access the class page. Hold an open house to familiarize parents with the OLC and share how they can encourage their children at home. As a teacher, do the lessons yourself so you are very familiar with the content you’re assigning.

- **Reward use.** Kids like to be acknowledged. Recognize students’ at-home use and show them you’re paying attention. Give stickers or prizes for high usage, highlight class participation on a poster on the door, or consider friendly competitions between classes or among students. Show evidence of success to keep the energy going!

- **Track progress.** What gets measured, gets done! It’s easy to track student progress in the OLC (*see next page for details*). Report back to class on how they’re doing.
Feedback and Assessment

If students are using the *Shalom Hebrew OLC App* as part of a class in the Online Learning Center, teachers can use the assessment features to monitor student progress and provide feedback on their Hebrew reading.

Choose your student and then choose either of these options:

**Student Recordings**

In *Shalom Hebrew OLC App*, students can record themselves reading Hebrew and then "share" it with their teacher when they are ready. You can review and provide feedback on specific students' Hebrew reading. Students can view the feedback in the app.
Check off the completed activity, and *Shalom Hebrew* awards badges automatically.

ONE EXCEPTION: the Mouth Badge. You can award this badge after students complete all the recordings in a given lesson.
Activities and Games

Choose to review student progress on either Games or Activities.

For a given student, view the number of student visits and scores for each activity.

You can view the games students have played and their scores.