

## Hineni Workshop: Entry Requirements

Entry requirements. By that I mean, what do you need to be able to do for the students to be able to begin work in *Book 1*? What do you think? Yes?

ξ Basic reading skills, alef, bet, vowels.

You've got it. Basic decoding skills. Alef, bet, the knowledge/ability to put letters together with sounds and read whole words. Usually, when we say read, there is comprehension involved. Sometimes we like to refer to it as decoding; they can sound out Hebrew words. So, really, that is the only prerequisite for entering *Book 1*, and that is the ability to decode. So the question becomes, what should the students in my school be using to decode? The fact is that any primer that suits your fancy and works is okay. However, I do want to tell you about a primer we have created that is part of the program, part of the entire *Hineni* program, and that is *Shalom Uvrachah*.

*Shalom Uvrachah* is our latest, and now most popular Hebrew primer. It is available in a script writing or print writing edition. It is the identical book. About thirty pages are different within it. Thirty pages teach either block print or script writing. I'm not going to talk too much about that, that's for another day, other than to say the primer is most widely used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, or whatever year you choose to teach your students to read--[the first] formal year of reading. Many schools do this in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, some in 4<sup>th</sup>. It's usually the first year the kids have to come, formally and officially to Hebrew school.

*Shalom Uvrachah* teaches new letters and vowels from key cultural words. There are twenty-five chapters, twenty-five key words like *shamash*, *Sh'ma*, *tzedakah*, *navee*.



From these words, the kids learn new letters and vowels. So, it places them in context and makes them meaningful.

