

# The Kriah Train

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**Grade Level:** Early Childhood-Middle School

## Description:

The Kriah Train is a hands-on tactile tool for teaching kriah. It consists of a picture of a train with cars. Blocks with letters and nekudos are placed in the cars to teach children how to decode the letter/nekudah combinations and how they form words. Children enjoy moving the blocks around and forming words themselves. Many children benefit from a tactile/kinesthetic approach to kriah so this activity would be helpful both in a regular classroom and in a special education/resource room.



## Goals/Objectives:

- Students will manipulate letters and nekudos to learn how to decode individual letter/nekudah combinations correctly.
- Students will learn that lashon hakodesh is read from right to left.
- Students will learn how to form three letter words with one or two different nekudos.
- Students will learn how to blend a letter at the end of a word.
- Students will become sensitive to the sounds of individual phonemes in words and will learn how to exchange the sounds.

## Materials Needed:

- Laminated picture of the kriah train
- Alef/bais blocks or something similar

## Instructions:

1. The kriah train can be used by the regular kriah teacher in a classroom setting. It can also be used in a resource room or special education setting.
2. The student is taught that you start reading at the beginning of the train. This idea is strengthened by the numbers that are written on the cars. Therefore, every time a student reads a word, the correct direction is indicated by the direction of the train and the number 1.
3. Step 1-The teacher places an individual letter with a nekudah in box #1. The student then reads it. The teacher then varies the letter, nekudah, or both according to the level of the student. The student can also be asked to form

various combinations. This trains the student to listen for the sounds and builds phonemic awareness.

4. Step 2-When the student is proficient in individual letter/nekudah combinations, a second letter/nekudah combination can be added. At first, the nekudos should be identical. Afterwards, different nekudos can be used. Depending on the student's skills, either the teacher or the student can form the words.
5. Step 3-The kriaah train can also be used to teach the blend of a letter at the end of the word. Many students have difficulty with this concept. The teacher can ask the student to remove the nekudah from the last letter and read it, put the nekudah back and read it, etc. In this way, the student will understand the difference in how to read the word if there is a nekudah or if there is not.

**Variation:**

- There are endless possibilities for the kriaah train. Depending on the unique needs of the student, the teacher can vary the activities and can make them more challenging as the student's skills improve.





