

An International Conference on Jewish Education

**DEPENDENT, INDEPENDENT, INTERDEPENDENT:
AN EXAMINATION OF RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES**

January 12-15, 2007

The Kovens Conference Center
Florida International University, Miami, Florida

Interdependence – a symbiotic relationship with others – is essential for success in modern-day society. Contemporary culture's messages about personal relationships, love and commitment, however, increasingly stress the self, the individual. Our children face intensifying challenges in relating to the "other" and the community – relationships that are critical to their development into healthy adult Jews. Are we, as educators, doing our job in preparing our children to successfully navigate the interpersonal challenges that they face?

How are our children taught to speak to one another? How are they spoken to – by their peers, teachers, parents and other authority figures? Are our children taught to befriend and to value friendships? Who are their heroes? Who do they perceive as their mentors? How do they develop the skills that will allow them to pursue a path in life that will lead to a sense of challenge and satisfaction? Will they find a venue that will allow them to develop relationships leading to a fulfilling sense of intimacy and family life? Can they recognize others who pose a threat to them and do they know how to deal with them effectively?

Research demonstrates that social networks operate on many levels: families, classrooms, communities and beyond. These relationships play a critical role in determining the degree to which individuals succeed in achieving their goals as productive members of society and as active members of the Jewish community. Examining our children's social networks will enable us to better understand who our children are connecting to, how those relationships can be most effective and what the ground-rules and guidelines should be to nurture healthy positive, productive relationships in today's world. Framing the discussion within the context of Jewish education will help us investigate the unique challenges and opportunities presented in our community.

The Lookstein Center, a division of the School of Education at Bar-Ilan University, in partnership with The Shul of Bal Harbour, Florida, The Aleph Institute of Miami, The Center for the Jewish Future at Yeshiva University and The Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami, is bringing together academics and educators, as well as religious and communal leaders to focus on these unique challenges facing Jewish education today.

Proposals are sought that will contribute to analyzing this topic. We encourage the submissions of papers and presentations about research (including research in progress), practice, policies and model programs for review.

Length of presentations: 20 minutes, plus 10 minutes for questions and answers

Deadlines

June 15, 2006: 170 - word abstract and CV due

September 1, 2006: Notification of acceptance of papers

January 1, 2007: Submission of papers

All abstracts and papers should be sent as e-mail attachments in Word or in Rich Text Format for the published proceedings

Please send all abstracts and written correspondence to:

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