



OFFICE OF EDUCATION משרד החנוך

A Division of

Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION



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What would the Rebbe advise? The Rebbe's writings, his maamarim-Chassidic discourses, his sichos-public talks and his letters fill more than 100 volumes; how is one to find his teachings on a particular issue? Of course there are indices but even they are volumes and too many people find it inhibiting to even begin a search. *Teachings of The Rebbe on Chinuch* gathers a great many of the Rebbe's ideas and advice on chinuch-education into one eminently readable volume and in the process it gifts to thousands of his followers, a wealth of his instruction and guidance on this subject in the language they best understand.

Teachings of The Rebbe on Chinuch is a long overdue work. It is the product of a tremendous amount of work and the coming to fruition of Mrs. Keren Gordon's dream. It is thoughtfully organized, user friendly, with the readers' needs given uppermost consideration so that they can easily find what they are looking for. Everyone who leafs through these pages owes her a debt of gratitude.

The Rebbe's teachings and advice are at the same time broad and general in nature, while they may practically be dealing with a very specific issue. He delves into the very core of an idea while discussing something apparently tangential. That is the nature of Torah in general and the Rebbe's approach in particular; his words cannot be read superficially if one is to benefit from their profundity.

It is therefore to the credit of the translators and editors that they labored hard to be true to the original words of the Rebbe. They did not read their own interpretation into his words, even to make it easier for the reader to understand. The product of this labor of love is not a volume about the Rebbe's views on chinuch issues, it is a volume of his views on chinuch. I pray that readers will study and learn from it appropriately.

A word of caution might be in order. The Rebbe's words need to be studied very carefully before forming any kind of opinion about his view on any particular chinuch theme.

The Rebbe said on many occasions that one should not literally apply his words, advice and responses, to every situation. It is not always appropriate to extrapolate a response to a given dilemma from something the Rebbe said in a similar situation. People and places are different, circumstances vary and what the Rebbe advised an individual or group in one place may not necessarily apply to different people in another place.

The Alter Rebbe writes in his preface to his magnum opus, the Tanya, (loosely translated) "if one finds himself unable to find the advice he seeks from the words in this volume, he should discuss his issue with the elders within his community who will be able to help him understand how to apply the words of Tanya to his own dilemma." I believe that is the approach readers of this work must use as they look for answers to issues they face in their own lives.

On the eve of 3 Tammuz 5776

Nochem Kaplan

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Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	XXV
EDITORS' FOREWORD.....	1
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	3
THE MITZVAH OF CHINUCH.....	4
<i>Raising the child of Hakadosh Baruch Hu</i>	4
<i>Chinuch is more than a preparation</i>	4
<i>A life of perfection religiously, morally, and ethically</i>	4
<i>Chinuch begins from the most tender age</i>	4
<i>The age of chinuch</i>	5
<i>Chinuch is "above the realm of a mitzvah"</i>	5
<i>Every effort is worthwhile</i>	5
<i>Every effort is justified</i>	6
<i>Chinuch should be carried out with enthusiasm</i>	6
<i>Accustoming a child to have kabbalas ol</i>	7
<i>The foundation of chinuch: Yiras Hashem and ahavas Hashem</i>	7
<i>Accustoming a child to kedusha</i>	7
<i>Chinuch has no limits</i>	7
<i>Changing one's habits</i>	8
<i>The salvation of the Jewish people</i>	8
CHAPTER 2: BEFORE BIRTH.....	9
CHINUCH BEGINS BEFORE BIRTH	10
<i>The parent's oath</i>	10
<i>Taharas hamishpachah and kashrus</i>	11
<i>Deficiency in taharas hamishpachah causes bad middos in children</i> ...	12
<i>Taharas hamishpachah affects future generations</i>	12
<i>Conduct of pregnant woman affects fetus</i>	13

<i>Intentions during intimacy</i>	13
<i>Making great efforts to see only that which is pure and holy</i>	14
<i>Tznius during pregnancy</i>	14
<i>Not to publicize pregnancy</i>	15
<i>Telling people one is very close to is not considered publicizing</i>	15
<i>Immersing during the ninth month</i>	15
<i>Checking mezuzos</i>	16
<i>Additional tzedakah to the Rabbi Meir Baal Ha'nes Fund,</i> <i>18 pennies</i>	16
<i>Adding in tzedakah</i>	16
<i>Tehillim of the day</i>	16
<i>Chapter 20 before bedtime Shema</i>	16
<i>Opening the aron kodesh when the Torah is read</i>	17
CHILD BIRTH	17
<i>Childbirth – Shir Hamaalos</i>	17
<i>Saying Tehillim during labor</i>	20
<i>Husband should not be in delivery room</i>	20
<i>Having children hastens the geulah</i>	21
<i>“Conquering the world” through pru u'revu</i>	21
<i>Naming the Child</i>	22
<i>Adding a Shabbos candle</i>	22
<i>The importance of nursing</i>	22
CHAPTER 3: CHINUCH FROM THE YOUNGEST AGE	23
<i>Yeshivah fund at bris</i>	24
SURROUNDING A CHILD WITH KEDUSHA FROM THE FIRST MOMENTS OF LIFE.....	24
<i>Children are influenced by everything around them</i>	24
<i>First steps in chinuch: Mezuzah, Shir Hamaalos, thanking Hashem</i> ...	25
<i>Kashrus, Shir Hamaalos</i>	25
<i>Being careful to avoid cholov akum and pas akum</i>	26
<i>Cholov Yisrael and emuna</i>	26
<i>Kashrus affects middos</i>	27
<i>Hiddurim in kashrus</i>	27
<i>Shir Hamaalos, lullabies</i>	28
<i>Baby's ears should cleave to words of Torah</i>	28
<i>Shir Hamaalos, pesukim by heart</i>	29
<i>The neshamah absorbs</i>	29
<i>Children understand everything</i>	29
<i>Bringing children to hear Ten Commandments</i>	29

<i>Washing negel vasser</i>	30
<i>Negel vasser affects a child's health</i>	31
<i>Child has a Nefesh Elohis from time of birth</i>	31
<i>Surround the child with objects of kedusha</i>	32
<i>Immediately buying a letter in a Sefer Torah</i>	32
<i>Father teaches child Torah tziva lanu Moshe</i>	33
<i>Chinuch from age three</i>	33
<i>Modeh Ani</i>	34
<i>Kissing the mezuzah</i>	34
<i>Saying names of holy Yidden, shevatim, Avos, sefarim</i>	34
<i>Avoiding impure animals</i>	35
<i>Dressing like a Yid</i>	36
<i>Clearly the son of a chassid</i>	36
<i>Button right to left</i>	37
BRACHOS.....	37
<i>One hundred brachos a day</i>	37
<i>Answering amen</i>	37
<i>Teaching the meaning of brachos</i>	38
<i>Giving sweets to children</i>	38
<i>Birkas Hamazon</i>	38
CHAPTER 4: THE CHILD'S ROOM.....	39
<i>Room full of sefarim</i>	40
<i>Pushka nailed to the wall</i>	40
<i>A Mikdash for Hashem</i>	41
<i>Every Jewish child is "judge" and "officer" over his room</i>	42
<i>A clean, illuminated, and holy room</i>	42
<i>Making the room a place of Torah, prayer, and acts of loving-kindness</i> ...	42
<i>Children should be encouraged to use sefarim</i>	43
CHAPTER 5: INSTILLING A LOVE AND AWE FOR HAKADOSH BARUCH HU.....	45
EMUNA, THE FOUNDATION OF CHINUCH.....	46
<i>The world has a Baal Habayis</i>	46
<i>"An Eye that sees and an Ear that hears"</i>	46
<i>Opportunity to do teshuvah</i>	47
<i>Begin chinuch with kabbalas ol, not intellect</i>	47
<i>Emuna is indivisible</i>	48
<i>Not to be alarmed by the concealment of this world</i>	49
<i>Yiras Shamayim</i>	50

<i>Instilling Yiras Shamayim</i>	50
<i>Sleeping with a yarmulka</i>	50
<i>Explaining to a child that Hashem is One</i>	50
<i>Morality depends upon belief in Hashem</i>	51
<i>An increase in one family members' yiras Shamayim</i>	52
<i>Teaching hashgacha pratit</i>	52
<i>A Yid does not make calculations (statistics, probabilities, etc.)</i>	54
<i>Child's speech lacking in emuna</i>	54
<i>"The world was created for me" – expressed appropriately</i>	55
INSTILLING IMPORTANT VALUES	55
<i>A new channel</i>	55
<i>Yearning for Hashem to the point of tears</i>	55
<i>Chelek Eloka mi'maal mamash</i>	56
<i>Sense of pride in Yiddishkeit</i>	56
<i>Pride in being different</i>	57
<i>The bearer of a sacred tradition</i>	57
<i>Jewish pride: The key to influencing non-Jews</i>	59
<i>Living like a goy is spiritual death for a Yid</i>	64
<i>Should children play ball?</i>	64
<i>Striving to grow</i>	66
<i>Children are shluchim</i>	67
<i>Influencing their friends</i>	67
<i>Children should teach other children</i>	68
<i>Saving Yidden</i>	68
<i>Encouraging others to increase in mitzvos</i>	69
<i>Instilling the attributes of compassion and bittul</i>	70
<i>A sensitivity for kedusha</i>	70
<i>Bringing children to farbrengens</i>	70
<i>Expectation for geulah</i>	72
<i>The Beis Hamikdash will very soon be rebuilt</i>	72
<i>Faces radiating geulah</i>	72
<i>Hashem's army</i>	73
DAVENING.....	73
<i>Modeh Ani</i>	73
<i>Reciting Birkas Hamazon</i>	73
<i>Thanking Hashem for all one's possessions</i>	74
<i>The essence of a child's davening: Hashem's name should be upon their lips</i>	74
<i>Learning the simple explanation of the tefillos</i>	75

<i>Skipping sections to keep up with the minyan</i>	75
<i>Teaching a student to have kavanah in davening.....</i>	76
<i>Don't dampen youthful enthusiasm.....</i>	76
TEFILLIN	77
<i>One does not bless Shebecheyanu when putting on tefillin for the first time.....</i>	77
<i>Why does a child preparing for the mitzvah of tefillin not make a bracha as with the chinuch of other mitzvos?</i>	77
<i>Why is the amount of time to don tefillin without a bracha not specified?</i>	78
<i>Chol HaMoed within two months before bar mitzvah</i>	78
TZITZIS	78
<i>When he begins to walk</i>	78
<i>Protects the child</i>	79
<i>Brings to the keeping of all Hashem's mitzvos.....</i>	79
<i>Draws down Hashem's Malchus.....</i>	79
INSTILLING A PASSION FOR TORAH.....	80
<i>Kissing Sefer Torah with affection</i>	80
<i>Understanding Torah.....</i>	80
<i>Explaining to a child on their level.....</i>	81
<i>Speaking only words of Torah</i>	82
<i>Giving children sefarim as gifts.....</i>	82
<i>When children meet, they should learn Torah</i>	82
<i>Learning with a chavrusa</i>	83
<i>Sensitive topics in Chumash/Nach</i>	83
<i>Spreading the wellsprings to children.....</i>	83
<i>Learning Chassidus from age five.....</i>	84
<i>Studying the Chassidic Torah Portion.....</i>	84
<i>Father tests children in their learning.....</i>	84
<i>Ink written on new paper.....</i>	85
<i>Buying a letter in a Sefer Torah</i>	86
<i>A letter in a Sefer Torah- even before the child is named!</i>	87
<i>Learning mishnayos by heart.....</i>	88
<i>The Rebbe's twelve pesukim</i>	89
<i>Children's Torah learning hastens the geulah.....</i>	99
HISKASHRUS TO THE REBBE.....	100
<i>Encouraging children to devote themselves to the Rebbe</i>	100
<i>Assign an essay about the Rebbe's inyanim</i>	100

<i>Students of the Rebbe are like his children</i>	101
<i>Consulting with the Rebbe and following his instructions</i>	101
CHAPTER 6: METHODS IN EARLY EDUCATION	103
<i>Make learning tangible</i>	104
<i>Engraving Judaism in the child's nature</i>	104
CHINUCH THROUGH STORIES	104
<i>Utilizing stories</i>	104
<i>Implanting emuna through miracle stories</i>	105
<i>Choosing the right stories</i>	105
<i>Only true stories</i>	106
<i>Before age five, chinuch is mainly through Torah stories</i>	106
<i>A child can relate to mesirus nefesh better than an adult</i>	106
<i>Tell stories at every opportunity</i>	107
CHINUCH IN A WAY OF "THE RIGHT HAND DRAWS NEAR"	108
<i>Influencing children</i>	108
<i>Should always choose the pleasant and peaceful path</i>	108
<i>Refrain from scaring a child</i>	108
<i>The negative is external and temporary</i>	109
<i>Beginnings are difficult</i>	109
<i>Gevurah does not apply to a baby</i>	110
<i>Corporal punishment</i>	110
<i>Potching in school</i>	110
<i>Tracht gut, vet zein gut</i>	111
<i>Giving sweets to a child</i>	111
<i>Hold back from reprimanding</i>	111
<i>Indirect influence is received more readily and deeply</i>	112
DISCIPLINE	112
<i>Discipline is the foundation for success</i>	112
<i>The middle path</i>	112
<i>Reprimanding the Torah way</i>	113
<i>Shielding a child from negative external influences with rebuke</i>	113
<i>Mussar is not the way of Chabad</i>	114
<i>Emphasis on the positive</i>	114
<i>Prioritize answering rasha, but don't reward insolence</i>	115
<i>Having a fixed schedule</i>	115
<i>It is not good for children to have too much free time</i>	115
<i>Saying Tehillim in free time</i>	116
<i>Simchah should not be expressed as wild behavior</i>	116

<i>Ruling over instincts, lusts, and natural inclinations</i>	117
<i>The Torah must be recognizable in the way he eats, sleeps, travels...</i>	118
<i>Teaching derech erez during mealtimes</i>	119
<i>Cleanliness</i>	119
NEVER TEACH OR SAY TO A CHILD AN UNTRUTH	119
<i>When a child learns it is permissible to lie</i>	119
<i>Truth will not sprout from lies</i>	120
<i>One must fulfill promises to a child</i>	120
BY PERSONAL EXAMPLE – DUGMAH CHAYAH	121
<i>Parents must set a living example</i>	121
<i>The first condition to succeed in chinuch</i>	121
<i>Behavior should not contradict what they teach their child</i>	122
<i>Children notice everything</i>	122
<i>Setting an example</i>	123
<i>The students will take it a step further</i>	123
LEARNING ALEF BEIS	123
<i>Learn letters at age two</i>	123
<i>Teach letters and nekudos separately</i>	124
<i>Does not delay progress, instills yiras Shamayim</i>	124
<i>After a few letters, one may teach those letters with the nekudos</i>	124
<i>Do all nekudos need to be learned before learning with letters?</i>	124
<i>Letters should not be embellished</i>	125
<i>Learning letters from a sefer</i>	125
<i>Learning letters from the shaar blatt of Tanya</i>	125
<i>The deeper meaning behind the forms of the letters</i>	126
<i>The order of the nekudos</i>	126
<i>Colorful or black on white?</i>	127
<i>Letters and nekudos originate from Har Sinai</i>	127
CHAPTER 7: CHINUCH AL TAHARAS HAKODESH	129
<i>Negative outside influences</i>	130
<i>Yiddishkeit in the strongest measure</i>	130
<i>A lesson from the circumcision of Yitzchok and Ishmael</i>	131
<i>Beginning chinuch with hiddurei mitzvah</i>	132
<i>Chinuch for minhagei Yisrael</i>	132
<i>Minhagim have the greatest impact on a child</i>	133
<i>Ingraining minhagim in little children</i>	134
<i>A lesson from Kimchis: Striving for more</i>	134
<i>Every detail is important</i>	135

<i>A scratch on a seed</i>	136
<i>Ammunition to stand up to challenges of this generation</i>	136
<i>A small deviation from the path</i>	137
<i>Compromises have proven to be ineffective</i>	137
<i>Young people seek truth</i>	139
<i>Health of body depends on health of neshamah</i>	139
<i>Teach one step at a time</i>	140
<i>Chinuch also needs a hechsher</i>	141
CHINUCH AND PARNASSA	141
<i>Par'oh Melech Mitzrayim</i>	141
<i>University</i>	142
<i>Few come out unscathed</i>	143
<i>Overwhelming forces to confront at every turn</i>	144
<i>Secular learning</i>	145
<i>Minimize secular learning</i>	146
<i>Makes a child's mind impure</i>	146
<i>Mathematics is also considered secular learning</i>	147
<i>Introducing secular studies into curriculum</i>	148
<i>The skills will be acquired with ease</i>	148
<i>At least several years devoted to Torah study without interference</i>	148
<i>Reserving the first portion of one's income for chinuch</i>	149
<i>Chinuch expenses do not diminish parnassa</i>	149
<i>When parents provide proper chinuch, Hashem provides</i> <i>for all their needs</i>	150
<i>Hashem has no shortage of money</i>	151
<i>Instructions for a trade school</i>	152
CHAPTER 8: CHINUCH MILESTONES	153
BIRTHDAY.....	154
<i>The joy on a birthday</i>	154
<i>Customs for first birthday</i>	154
<i>The mother makes the birthday into a ruchniyus matter</i>	156
<i>The Friediker Rebbe's directives</i>	156
<i>The Rebbe's directives</i>	156
<i>Delivering public words of Torah</i>	157
OPSHERENISH	158
<i>Yarmulka</i>	158
<i>Sleeping with a yarmulka</i>	158
<i>First haircut</i>	158

<i>Opsherenish not before boy reaches third birthday</i>	158
<i>Postponing the opsherenish</i>	159
<i>Learning in the text</i>	159
HACHNASAH LECHEDER.....	160
<i>Child is given honey cake</i>	160
<i>Candies from Malach Michael</i>	160
<i>Sending a child to cheder before age three</i>	161
<i>Take the child to cheder besimchah</i>	161
BAR MITZVAH	162
<i>Bar mitzvah simchah comparable to chuppah</i>	162
<i>Bar mitzvah celebrated on day boy turns thirteen</i>	162
<i>Must begin to work to reach level of "adam"</i>	162
<i>Celebrate like a chassid</i>	162
<i>Bar mitzvah boy and family should study Tehillim and give tzedakah</i> ...	163
<i>Should the bar mitzvah boy read the parsha for the congregation?</i> ...	163
<i>Following the local custom</i>	164
BAS MITZVAH.....	164
YOUTH	164
<i>Teenagers are by nature more tense</i>	164
<i>Youth must be a dugmah chayah</i>	165
<i>Youth sees through hypocrisy</i>	166
<i>Monitoring the environment of youth</i>	166
<i>Youth are craving meaning and purpose</i>	166
<i>The youth are ready to transform their entire way of life for Truth</i> ...	167
<i>Extra attention to those susceptible to suffer a crisis</i>	168
<i>Explaining intimate matters</i>	168
<i>Lower the age of marriage</i>	169
<i>Without undue haste</i>	170
<i>Addressing tznius inyanim</i>	170
<i>Endeavors and toil will not be expended in vain</i>	172
CHAPTER 9: CHINUCH OF GIRLS.....	173
<i>A newborn girl is named at first possible Torah reading</i>	174
<i>Importance of chinuch of girls</i>	174
<i>Le'Torah, le'chuppah, ulem'asim tovim!</i>	174
<i>Chinuch of girls affects entire system</i>	175
<i>Proper chinuch endows a Jewish girl with special sensitivity</i>	175
<i>Educating girls to be Yiddishe kinder</i>	175
<i>Shabbos candles</i>	176

<i>A light that lasts from Shabbos to Shabbos</i>	177
<i>Blessing Shehecheyanu</i>	180
<i>One candle</i>	180
<i>Their very own candle and candlestick</i>	180
<i>Chinuch of kashrus</i>	180
<i>Helping the mother</i>	181
<i>Accustoming herself to be a dugmah chayah</i>	181
<i>Playing with a doll and what it teaches</i>	182
<i>Small girls should also be brought to shul</i>	182
<i>The founding of “Bais Rivkah” and “Bais Sarah”</i>	182
TZNIUS	184
<i>From three years and a day</i>	184
<i>From the most tender age</i>	184
<i>Tznius: Minhag hamakom</i>	185
<i>The Jewish girl must set the example, and not follow others’ way of dress</i>	185
<i>Conduct of a bas Yisrael</i>	186
<i>Learning Gemara?</i>	187
<i>Focus on sections with practical relevance</i>	188
CHAPTER 10: OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARENT	189
<i>Every investment in chinuch makes a world of difference</i>	190
<i>Dressing children in expensive clothing</i>	190
<i>Raising a sincere Yid</i>	190
<i>Hashem gives children to parents as a deposit to give the proper chinuch</i>	191
<i>Parents do not own their children</i>	192
<i>The mitzvah of chinuch is compared to the mitzvah of tefillin</i>	192
<i>Parents’ involvement with school</i>	192
<i>Parents should consult with the administration</i>	193
<i>Parents are often not reliable in assessing their children</i>	193
<i>The responsibility for the chinuch of children is the parents’</i>	194
<i>Tzedakah to chinuch institutions</i>	194
PARENTS WANT THE BEST FOR THEIR CHILDREN	194
<i>Parents have mesirus nefesh for children</i>	194
<i>From the chinuch one gives his children, it is apparent where he himself stands</i>	195
<i>Parents want their children to outdo them</i>	196
<i>When a child is given a true Torah chinuch, the life of the parents can be considered “life”</i>	196

<i>Chinuch requires toil and great efforts</i>	197
<i>Mesirus nefesh for every Jewish child</i>	197
<i>Mesirus nefesh for grown children</i>	198
<i>Lesson from Chana: There must be an everlasting bond between parent and child</i>	199
CHAPTER 11: THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER	201
<i>The advantage of chinuch given by a woman</i>	202
<i>Compassion, humility, and gemilus chassadim</i>	202
<i>Woman's focus and passion direct the home</i>	203
<i>Women have special traits necessary for chinuch</i>	203
<i>Hashem entrusted chinuch to the Jewish woman</i>	204
<i>The fetus develops inside the mother</i>	204
<i>The lesson from the law that Jewish identity is matrilineal</i>	204
<i>The Yiddishkeit of the next generation is in the Jewish woman's hands</i> ...	205
<i>Nurturing a love for Yiddishkeit from the youngest age</i>	205
<i>The mother reveals Hashem in the home</i>	206
<i>Making the home a chassidische home</i>	207
<i>The purpose of a woman's kinus</i>	207
<i>Mother instills in children a passion for Torah study</i>	207
<i>Encouraging her husband, brothers, and children to learn</i>	208
<i>The mother provides the spiritual sustenance</i>	209
<i>Mothers should study Chassidus</i>	210
<i>Mother permeates home with G-dliness</i>	211
<i>The pictures on the walls, all that enters the home affects chinuch</i> ...	212
<i>The kashrus of the food affects chinuch</i>	212
<i>The health of the children's bodies and neshamos</i>	212
<i>Making her home into a Mishkan</i>	213
<i>Cleansing in the kiyor before entering the home</i>	214
<i>Bringing the geulah</i>	215
<i>Mesirus nefesh for her children</i>	215
<i>Akeres habayis ensures that stability of home is not shaken</i>	216
<i>A mother's emotional state</i>	216
<i>The atmosphere of the home</i>	216
<i>Interferences to her role as a mother</i>	217
<i>A lesson from Chana: The priorities of an akeres habayis</i>	217
WOMEN AND WORK	223
<i>Involvement in chinuch</i>	223
<i>The reason for the role of akeres habayis</i>	224
<i>Conditions of the Rebbe for going out to work</i>	224

<i>A mother's primary priority</i>	225
<i>First and foremost, a mother</i>	225
A MOTHER'S TZNIUS IMPACTS ENTIRE HOME	227
<i>Tznius of the mother brings the Shechinah into the home and brachos for the family</i>	227
<i>America is no different!</i>	228
<i>Tznius is true beauty</i>	228
<i>Tznius indicative of level of yiras Shamayim</i>	229
<i>A matter of kedusha</i>	229
<i>Tznius elicits brachos</i>	230
<i>Not depending on "fashions" of the street</i>	230
<i>Deficiencies in tznius deprive sons of spiritual levels that would be otherwise attainable</i>	230
<i>Mother's tznius is most important factor in raising holy children</i>	231
<i>Tznius even while home alone affects children years later</i>	232
CHAPTER 12: THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FATHER.....	233
<i>Chinuch – compared to the mitzvah of tefillin</i>	234
<i>Ensuring that the simchah of Shabbos and Yom Tov is felt in the home</i> ...	235
<i>Father's dedication to Torah learning</i>	236
<i>Teaching one's child to be a dugmah chayah</i>	236
<i>The father's yiras Shamayim</i>	237
CHAPTER 13: THE JEWISH HOME	239
THE IMPORTANCE OF SHALOM BAYIS	240
<i>One of the most lofty and important ideals</i>	240
<i>A vessel for bracha</i>	240
<i>Ingrains in children the best possible middos</i>	240
<i>Children will wholeheartedly accept parents' instructions</i>	241
<i>Don't emphasize your spouse's faults</i>	242
<i>Woman holds key to achdus</i>	242
<i>When parents do not agree on chinuch matters</i>	243
<i>The great importance of achdus and shalom</i>	244
THE HOME IS A PLACE OF KEDUSHA	245
<i>The strength to overcome peer pressure</i>	245
<i>Chasidishkeit should be felt in three areas</i>	246
<i>A palpable Torah atmosphere</i>	247
<i>Conduct according to Shulchan Aruch</i>	247
<i>Non-kosher music</i>	248
<i>Television</i>	248

CHAPTER 14: STORIES AND LESSONS FROM THE REBBE.....	251
<i>Do not be satisfied with just “reading” a story.....</i>	252
<i>A story is an instruction</i>	252
<i>Chinuch applications.....</i>	252
<i>A story told by a Nasi</i>	252
<i>How could it be that the best years of Yaakov’s life were those he lived in Mitzrayim??</i>	253
<i>A new channel has been opened.....</i>	253
<i>The sensitivity of the Rebbe Rashab as a child.....</i>	256
<i>Mishnayos be’al peh for gemilus chassadim</i>	257
<i>The difference between a Yid and a calf.....</i>	259
<i>One must always hear the cry of a child</i>	260
<i>Breaking the kelipos of our time.....</i>	261
<i>Torah is acquired through mesirus nefesh!.....</i>	264
CHAPTER 15: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS	267
<i>Parents should daven for their children</i>	268
<i>Hashem grants the ability to overcome all obstacles.....</i>	268
<i>A segulah for children not to go off the derech</i>	268
<i>An increase in observance of one family member benefits entire family... </i>	269
<i>The Rebbe’s pilot program: Tzivos Hashem.....</i>	269
<i>Pleasant methods are always more successful</i>	272
<i>Influence through friends</i>	273
<i>Influence through others.....</i>	273
<i>Parents can influence their children more than they think</i>	274
<i>Keep trying and eventually they will be affected</i>	274
<i>Maintain a strong bitachon</i>	274
<i>Elevate the child.....</i>	275
<i>It is unwise to hover over a child’s every move</i>	275
<i>Supporting those who study Torah</i>	276
<i>Child prefers to play than to learn</i>	276
<i>Child with an abundance of energy/exaggerated demands</i>	276
<i>Mischievous behavior.....</i>	277
<i>Child has an aggressive nature.....</i>	277
<i>Obedience and concentration difficulties</i>	277
<i>Dyslexia</i>	278
<i>A child who has begun to “go off the derech”</i>	278
<i>Know how to answer questions from a secular perspective</i>	278
<i>Sending children away for school</i>	279
<i>Child who is spoiled and lacking motivation</i>	280
<i>Lack of passion in learning.....</i>	280

<i>Child dating a non-Jew</i>	281
<i>The power of teshuva</i>	281

CHAPTER 16: THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT
IN CHINUCH

IN CHINUCH	283
<i>In a time of crisis</i>	284
<i>Self-evaluation</i>	284
<i>Hastens the geulah</i>	284
<i>Chinuch is Heavenly work</i>	285
<i>Educating Hashem's dear children</i>	285
<i>Spiritual pru u'rvu</i>	285
<i>The Baal Shem Tov's example</i>	285
<i>The Baal Shem Tov's devotion to the chinuch of small children</i>	286
<i>The Tzemach Tzedek tested students</i>	287
<i>The Friediker Rebbe risked his life for the chinuch of children</i>	288
<i>The Friediker Rebbe's mesirus nefesh for a kosher chinuch</i>	288
<i>Chinuch when seemingly there will be no continuation</i>	289
<i>Teachers should be paid respectfully</i>	289
<i>Segulah for having children</i>	290
<i>A person's mind and heart become refined a thousandfold</i>	290

CHAPTER 17: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	291
<i>Imparting good middos</i>	292
<i>Focus on beauty of Yiddishkeit and on asseh tov, not sur me'ra</i>	293
<i>Do not be embarrassed by scoffers; Kabbalas Ol</i>	293
<i>Fundamental obligation of a teacher</i>	293
<i>Find a way to connect all learning to yiras Shamayim</i>	294
<i>A fund for gemilus chassadim</i>	294
<i>Reveal the child's G-dly soul</i>	295
<i>Releasing the student from the coercion of the yetzer hara</i>	295
<i>Chinuch of children from non-observant homes</i>	296
<i>True chinuch: When the one being taught will be able to stand on his own</i>	297
<i>Making children into leaders</i>	297
<i>Fear of "bad influence" in school</i>	298
<i>Contact with parents</i>	298
<i>Maintaining a connection with past students</i>	299
<i>Distribution of prizes</i>	299
<i>Classroom bullying</i>	300
<i>Teacher who keeps Torah and mitzvos</i>	300
<i>Best for teachers to be married</i>	301

<i>Female teacher for female students is preferable</i>	301
<i>Tznius of female teachers very important</i>	301
<i>The teacher-student relationship</i>	302
<i>Expelling a child from school</i>	302
<i>What is good for the many</i>	302
<i>Rarely is it not possible to influence the student not to be destructive</i> ...	303
<i>Do everything possible to keep the student in the fold</i>	303
<i>Supervision during mealtimes</i>	303
<i>Summer “vacation”</i>	304
<i>From learning Torah a person cannot be “free”</i>	304
<i>Summer “vacation” should not be “empty” time</i>	304
<i>When the mind is freed from secular studies</i>	305
<i>Keeping the school open throughout the year</i>	306
<i>All schools require segregation</i>	306
<i>“Contagious Disease”</i>	306
<i>Avoid coeducation no matter the financial cost</i>	307
<i>Segregation is equally necessary for non-Jews</i>	308
<i>Segregation should begin from the youngest age</i>	309
<i>Draw attention to the separation</i>	309
<i>Segregation is an ethical and educational imperative</i>	309
<i>Great caution in gender segregation is praiseworthy</i>	310
<i>Halachos needed for day-to day-life</i>	310
<i>Davening in yeshiva</i>	311
<i>“I Cannot Sleep at Night...”</i>	312
<i>The sensitivity of the student</i>	312
<i>The right priorities</i>	313
<i>Jewish subjects in the morning</i>	313
<i>‘Ivris b’Ivris’</i>	314
<i>Learning the language is secondary</i>	315
<i>Dealing with students who arrive late to class</i>	317
<i>Varying skill levels</i>	317
<i>Every institution should appoint an external committee for oversight</i> ...	318
<i>Maintaining high standards</i>	318
<i>Beautiful facilities for learning institutions</i>	320
<i>School plays</i>	321
ADVICE FOR PARENTS: CHOOSING A SCHOOL	321
<i>Choosing a day care option</i>	321
<i>Only Chabad institutions</i>	321
<i>Homeschooling</i>	323
<i>Open a new class</i>	323

<i>A good chinuch should not be postponed.....</i>	323
<i>Should not consider sending child to school with non-Jews</i>	323
CHAPTER 18: INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING CHILDREN'S PUBLICATIONS	325
<i>Only tahor animals</i>	326
<i>Boys and girls separate, distinct clothes, tzitzis out, tznius</i>	326
<i>Luchos not rounded at the top</i>	327
<i>Menorah should be depicted with straight branches.....</i>	327
<i>Exaggerated features in comics.....</i>	328
<i>Three Shabbos candles.....</i>	329
<i>Don't compose fictional literature about Biblical figures.....</i>	329
<i>Talks and Tales.....</i>	329
<i>The Rebbe Rashab's disapproval of secular sefarim</i>	330
BOOKS THAT ARE INAPPROPRIATE	330
<i>Forbidden books similar to forbidden foods</i>	330
<i>The Rebbe Rashab's disapproval of secular sefarim.....</i>	330
<i>Books should be reformatted and given a new title page.....</i>	330
<i>Judge a questionable sefer on the side of stringency</i>	331
<i>Reading materials that negate Torah and mitzvos</i>	331
<i>Ensuring that students do not have inappropriate sefarim.....</i>	332
<i>Encouraging better reading materials.....</i>	332
CHAPTER 19: CHINUCH AROUND THE YEAR.....	333
ELUL	334
<i>Children bless Kesivah VaChasimah Tovah.....</i>	334
<i>Ensuring all children are given a holy chinuch.....</i>	334
<i>The King is in the field</i>	335
<i>Thirteenth of Elul.....</i>	335
ROSH HAsHANAH	336
<i>Erev Rosh HaShanah.....</i>	336
<i>A year permeated with light</i>	336
<i>Even small children are brought to hear the shofar</i>	336
<i>Make a kinus.....</i>	337
YOM KIPPUR	338
<i>Kapparos when pregnant</i>	338
SUKKOS	339
<i>Visiting in a sukkah</i>	339
<i>Spreading the wellsprings</i>	339

SIMCHAS TORAH	340
<i>Children brought to hakafos</i>	340
<i>Simchas Beis HaSho'evah</i>	340
CHANUKAH	341
<i>Children light at the entrance to their room</i>	341
<i>Giving children Chanukah gelt</i>	342
<i>Matters of kedusha should be carried out in the most mebudar way</i> ...	343
<i>Using only "pure oil" in chinuch</i>	343
TWENTIETH OF TEVES, YOHRZTZEIT OF THE RAMBAM	345
15 BESHVAT	345
<i>Customs</i>	345
<i>Planting trees should not be added to minhagim</i>	346
ADAR	346
<i>Increasing simchah</i>	346
PURIM.....	347
<i>Living with Torah</i>	347
<i>The mitzvos of Purim</i>	347
<i>Salvation of the Jewish people</i>	348
<i>Each person must take part in chinuch</i>	348
<i>Playing the part of Haman</i>	349
<i>Directives for N'shei U'bnos Yisrael</i>	350
<i>Directives for children</i>	351
<i>Shabbos Haggadol</i>	351
PESACH	352
<i>The importance of customs</i>	352
<i>Should not sleep</i>	353
<i>Children and Gebrachts</i>	354
<i>Each child should have their own Haggadah</i>	354
<i>Stealing the Afkoman</i>	354
<i>Baking shemurah matzah</i>	354
<i>Distributing shemurah matzah</i>	355
<i>Asking the four questions</i>	355
<i>Acharon Shel Pesach</i>	355
PESACH SHENI.....	356
<i>Opportunity for teshuvah</i>	356
LAG BA'OMER	357

<i>Judging favorably</i>	357
<i>Day of rejoicing</i>	358
<i>Customs for children</i>	358
<i>Kinusim for children</i>	359
SHAVUOS	359
<i>The mother prepares the home spiritually and physically</i>	359
<i>Bringing all family members to shul</i>	360
<i>Children brought to shul for the reading of the Ten Commandments</i> ..	361
<i>“Our children will be our guarantors”</i>	361
BEIN HAMEITZARIM - THE THREE WEEKS	361
<i>Learning Hilchos Beis Habechirah</i>	361
<i>The cure is in the children</i>	362
CHAPTER 20: THE GREATEST BLESSING	363
<i>The first mitzvah</i>	364
<i>One should make every effort to bring more children into this world</i> ..	364
<i>Women do not need to be commanded pru u’rvu</i>	365
<i>Hashem will provide for the needs of this child</i>	365
<i>The strength for more children</i>	367
<i>The vessel for Hashem’s bracha</i>	367
<i>“Family Planning”</i>	369
<i>Difficulties conceiving</i>	370
<i>Male offspring</i>	370
INDEX.....	373
GLOSSARY.....	381