

Requirements for B'nai Mitzvah at B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, LA

1. Families of B'nai Mitzvah students must be members of the congregation, in good standing (staying current with their fair share/dues and tuition for Religious School and Hebrew School)
2. Students must be enrolled in Religious School as well as Hebrew School, and they must attend regularly. They should pledge to remain in Religious School through Confirmation.
3. If families live in Shreveport/Bossier they must enroll their children in Hebrew School when they are entering 3rd grade, and children must study continuously until they become bar or bat mitzvah. Families who move to the area with children who are beyond 3rd grade may enroll their children when they join the congregation. However, the date of their projected bar/bat mitzvah may be adjusted by the Rabbi if they haven't had Hebrew instruction prior to being at B'nai Zion.
4. Families of Aleph students (3rd and 4th grades) are expected to attend Shabbat services at least once a month. Families of Bet students (5th and 6th grades) are expected to attend Shabbat services at least twice a month. In the last 4 months before the bar/bat mitzvah, families are expected to make an effort to attend weekly in order to assure that the parents and students are totally at ease with the service and the congregation.
5. Students will choose a Mitzvah Project during their final year of study, and the results of the project will be shared at the time of their service. The project should be more than having guests bring something to the bar/bat mitzvah service.
6. Parents are expected to attend meetings set by the Rabbi to help them know what to expect as their children prepare for their bar/bat mitzvah.
7. Parents must set the date for the bar/bat mitzvah 6 months to 1 year before the ceremony is to take place. They must meet with the Events Coordinator of B'nai Zion 3 to 6 months prior.
8. Parents are expected to have their children (or help their children) study for at least 5 minutes per day between Hebrew classes. The Rabbi's website provides all the tools they will need.
9. Parents must allow the Rabbi to proof all invitations, save-the-date cards, and any other communication about the bar/bat mitzvah before they are mailed or otherwise shared with guests.
10. Hebrew lessons: Students must know all of the Hebrew required for leading worship services and basic home rituals at least six months before they can begin learning Torah during individualized lessons with the Rabbi – which should be a minimum of six months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Learning requires regularly attending classes, services, and studying/practicing between lessons. Approximately two months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date the student may need to increase the individualized lessons with the Rabbi in order to practice leading the service, read from the Torah scroll, and write the D'var Torah (Torah lesson/speech) with the Rabbi.

Hebrew requirements and learning materials can be found at www.HebrewDoc.com

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Hebrew Requirement Completion Chart for Bar / Bat Mitzvah

Prayer / Blessing	Level	Completed
Tallit	2	
Candles	2	
Reader's Kaddish	5	
Bar'chu	1	
Sh'ma	1	
V'ahavta	5	
S'fatai Tiftach	1	
Avot	5	
G'vurot	5	
K'dushah	1	
Before Torah	4	
After Torah	3	
Before Haftarah	4	
After Haftarah	5	
BONUS:		
Aleinu	4	
Kiddush	5	
Havdalah (4 Blessings)	5	
Food Blessings	5	
TORAH		
With Vowels	6 months before	
Without Vowels	2 months before	
MITZVAH PROJECT	Start 12 months before	
SERMON	2 months before	
ATTENDANCE		
Services (2 per month)	Required	