

Daf HaYomi B'Halacha



Today's

LIMUD

Hilchos Tefillin 32 (page 89) מסעיף טז עד אמצע הסעיף הא דמכשרינן

Today's

TOPICS

Using a Child to Identify a Letter Non-Proficient Child Permitted Repairs Based on a Child's Impression



Using a child to identify a letter

A child may be asked to identify a *vav* or *zayin* whose lower leg was partially erased or separated by a crack or hole [that formed after the letter was written]. If the child calls it a *vav* or *zayin* it is kosher, but if the child thinks it is a *yud* it is *pasul*. Similarly, a child can be used to decide if a long *nun* looks like a *zayin*, if a long *chaf* looks like a *reish*, if a *bais* looks like a *chaf*, etc. Only a child who is not proficient in reading can be used for this job.

(79 מז, ס"ק מה, מז ו־נב; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו.

Non-proficient child

A non-proficient child is defined as one who can recognize a letter but cannot understand what he is reading. Many Acharonim hold that when a child is evaluating a letter, the preceding and succeeding words should be covered so that he is not influenced by them. When dealing with a cracked letter, the separated section should be covered to prevent the child from including it as he reads the letter.

(סעיף טז, וס"ק מח-נא)





Repairs permitted based on a child's impression

If part of a letter was erased or cracked and the remaining part is clearly not the original letter, it is *pasul* even if a child reads it correctly. For example, if the *yud* separated from the main body of the *aleph*, it is *pasul* even though a child would certainly see it as an *aleph*. In the case of *tefillin*, however, such a letter is not considered to have totally lost its form; if a child reads it correctly, the letter can be repaired without violating *k'sidran*.

(סעיף טז, ס"ק נב, וביה"ל ד"ה מיהו)

Mesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- There is a halachic notion of the 'os ketana' (size of a small letter) that pertains to many areas of stam. A 'small letter' means a properly formed yud, including its left point.
- The measurement of 'os ketana' is applied to the left leg of the heh, the left base of the tav, the left leg of the kuf, the base of the lamed, and the legs of the letters daled, ches, reish, the straight (or long) chaf, peh and tzadi.
- The poskim discuss the size of the left leg of the heh in various contexts.
 The halachic decision is that it must match the os ketana.

Tomorrow's TOPICS

- Mukaf gevil
- When two letters touch
- Letters abutting a hole or the edge of the klaf

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Important Note: The halachic summaries are to assist you with your learning.

Before implementing halacha in practice, please refer directly to the Mishna Brura and Mussaf Dirshu.

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