

## Successful Transitions

In this week's *Torah* portion *Moshe* passes the mantle of leadership to *Yehoshua*, his disciple. G-d instructs *Moshe*, "*Kach lecha es Yehoshua* - Take to yourself *Yehoshua*." *Rashi* explains that when G-d was telling *Moshe* to "take" *Yehoshua* it means that *Moshe* was to speak to him with words of encouragement and tell him the following, "Fortunate are you that you have a chance to lead the children of G-d." The question arises why would *Yehoshua* need that encouragement?

Certainly, *Yehoshua* knew firsthand about the important role he was about to assume since he was always by *Moshe's* side. However, possessing knowledge about leadership is one thing, but being the actual leader and assuming its responsibility is another. G-d told *Moshe* you need to prepare him well beforehand to help lay the proper foundation providing *Yehoshua* the confidence to succeed.

G-d's instructions to *Moshe* illustrate the power of just a few words. Once *Yehoshua* becomes the leader, G-d knows he will face many changes and challenges as we all do in new situations and in life in general. Often during these taxing times, one needs a little positive stroking to have the confidence to make the decision and move forward. Thanks to G-d's foresight, *Yehoshua* would be able to look back, reflect on his teacher's words, renew his strength, and carry on.

As parents and teachers, we have a tremendous responsibility to prepare our children and students to move forward in life. It is our duty to help them develop positive self-esteem to become productive members of our community. May we learn this lesson and transmit those few words of encouragement at the necessary stages in life to bring out their very best selves.