

Yavneh Primary School



Succot Pack For Parents



This pack contains:



Background Information about the Festival of Succot



Succot Songs



A list of Websites to help you support your child!

Facts about Succot



- The Holiday of Succot (usually translated as Tabernacles or the Festival of Booths) commemorates how G-d looked after the Jewish People in the desert following their Exodus from Egypt, during which time they lived in portable shelters or booths.
- Outside Israel Succot lasts for 9 days (2 days Yom Tov, 5 Intermediate days - Chol Hamoed, 2 days Yom Tov).
- Succot is the third of the Shalosh Regalim (Three Pilgrim Festivals) when during the Temple era, Jews travelled from all over Israel to the Temple in Jerusalem.
- Succot is traditionally celebrated by building, eating in and sometimes sleeping in a succah, a temporary structure or hut usually constructed of four walls. After the walls are built, wooden poles are placed across the top and leaves are added to create the roof covering known as “sechach”.

The Succah



- Another special mitzvah of Succot is the shaking of the etrog (citron), lulav (palm branch), three hadassim (myrtle branches), and two aravot (willow branches). We shake them each day of Succot except for Shabbat.



The lulav and etrog

- One of the reasons given for the shaking of the lulav and etrog is that each of the four kinds represents a different type of Jew. The fact that the mitzvah requires all four kinds symbolizes our oneness as a people: we all need one another.

- The lulav and etrog are waved in all four compass directions, as well as up and down, signifying that G-d is everywhere.
- During the intermediate days of Succot (called Chol Ha'Moed), one is allowed to work and participate in other everyday activities, though one still holds and waves the lulav and etrog on a daily basis and eats meals in the succah.
- The theme of a temporary, flimsy shelter focuses us on the important things in life and removes us from thoughts of material and sometimes trivial possessions.
- Simchat Torah is also a Yom Tov and is the ninth and final day of Zeman Simchateynu - the season of our rejoicing. It is the culmination of a month filled with uplifting experiences.
- On Simchat Torah evening and during Simchat Torah day, we make seven hakafot (circuits) around the bimah in Shul, singing and dancing with the Torah scrolls. The final portion of the Torah is read, completing the yearly cycle. Then we immediately start the cycle again by reading from the beginning of the Torah. This shows how much we cherish the Torah - the eternal force which has sustained the Jewish People for thousands of years.
- A favourite experience on the morning of Simchat Torah is when all the children in Shul are called up to the Reading of the Torah; they stand together on the bimah under the canopy of a huge Tallit.



Songs



Lulav Song

(To the tune of the Hokey Cokey)

We shake the Lulav here
We shake the Lulav there
Here there, here there
We shake it everywhere
We shake it up and we shake it down
That's how we shake the Lulav!
Oh Lulav, Lulav, Lulav
Oh Lulav , Lulav, Lulav
Oh Lulav, Lulav, Lulav

Up and down and all around!

The Succah Song!

(To the tune of I had a little dreidel)

I built myself a Succah,
With four walls and a door
It doesn't need a ceiling
It doesn't need a floor

The s'chach will be the ceiling
The ground will be the floor
We will hang some decorations
It's ready now for sure!

Patish Masmer- A Hebrew song about building a Succah

Patish, masmer
nikach maher.
Sukah livnot,
banim uvanot. La la la...

Krashim nikach
va'anafim lis'chach
kashet hagag
lichvod hechag.

Kaneh, kaneh,
sukah nivneh.
Krashim nikach
knei suf lis'chach. La la la...

Maher, maher
pen ne'acher,
ein p'nai chakot,
machar sukot. La la la...

Basukah Shelanu- A Hebrew song about a Succah

Basukah shelanu simcha/orah vetzahalah
Ha'orchim ba'im, vehasimchah g'dolah

Lah lah lah...
(x2)

Ima vegam Aba, ve'achot va'ach
Hadod sheli, asher chikiti lo kol kach
Yaldah yafah veseret besimlah dakah,
Haru'ach hitganev itah el hasukah.

Basukah shelanu...

Fountainheads Succot song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6pZH-zHSIQ>

Maccabeats Succot song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoclxN5A7IY>

Websites



Would you like to find out more about Succot?

Useful Websites with information about Succot as well as videos, arts and crafts ideas and songs:

www.akhlah.com

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/sukkot/sukkot.php>

www.shalomesame.org

<http://www.shalomesame.org/parents-and-educators/sukkot>

www.chabad.org

http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/4126/jewish/Sukkot.htm

www.jewishinteractive.net

<http://jewishinteractive.net/site/families/>