

Pizza in the Hut

- This is an easy to run children's activity for Succot. This could be done on a Sunday or if Succot co-insides with half term, during the day. The basic idea is that the children do an activity followed by enjoying a meal in the succah.
- It is aimed at primary school age and you could tailor the activities based on the ages actually attending.
- You could run something for parents/adults at the same time, whilst the children engage in the activities. Alternatively, this is a really nice child-parent/grandparent activity.
- It would be great if the Rabbi/Rebbetzen or youth director is able to attend for at least the meal, to lead the children in a bracha for sitting in the succah.
- We suggest you combine Pizza making with one of the 'add-on' activities below.

Main Activity: Pizza making 20-30 minutes

Children make their own pizza (this works if you have a large oven...)

- Children make the dough, roll out the dough, put some passata on, chop vegetables and cover with cheese. (See instruction sheet)

Simpler version – Pita pizza 5-10 mins

You will need:

- 1 pita per child (buy 10 more than you need for accidents)
- Grated cheese (one bag is enough for 8-10 children)
- Passata (1 carton is enough for 8-10)
- Some easy to cut vegetables e.g. mushroom, pepper, sweetcorn

Each child gets 1 pitta bread. The children then spread tomato passata over the top and cover with cheese and vegetables. Cook in the oven (190c) until the cheese is melted.

Add-on activity 1: Bingo

You will need to:

Set up a big screen, projector and computer:

You can get an online bingo generator (75 ball) <https://letsplaybingo.io/>

You can download and print pre-made cards from <https://myfreebingocards.com/numbers/1-75>

You need to print the bingo cards, and ensure, each child has a bingo card and coloured pencil (not pen as you need to be able to see the number).

Explain the rules: When you see/hear you're a number, check if it is on your sheet, if it is put a X through the number, if you get (the whole row, the whole card) shout BINGO.



Add-on activity 2: Children's entertainer

Hire a children's entertainer e.g. a magician, circus skills, animal show or science party for an hour

This removes the need for you to plan anything as they will bring everything required.

Add-on activity 3: Biscuit decorating

Buy some packs of digestive biscuits

Make up bowls of different colour icing (mix icing sugar with some water and colouring). You could also put out bowls of sprinkles.

Give each child a small paper plate, a biscuit and they can decorate the biscuit

Add-on activity 4: Talent show

Invite children to prepare a talent to share with the group (the children should come pre-prepared before the activity).

Children who wish to perform, should sign up in advance (you could use google forms to manage this).

All children (who signed up) perform and are given a prize for performing.

This is very much aimed at parents attending as well as children

Costs:

Depending on what add on activities you run, it could cost as little as £3 to run per child (e.g. if you do bingo/ talent show) + security and caretaking. Also, there is a minimum cost (probably equivalent to 10 children)



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Pizza activity

Equipment:

Bowls
Baking Sheets
Baking Paper
Wooden spoon
Aprons for children
Teaspoon
Cups
Rolling pins
Plastic tablecloths

Preparation:

Depending on the age of children – pre-cut mushrooms, pepper and open tins of sweet corn

Depending on the age of children – weigh out the ingredients

Set tables with laminated instructions, bowls (one per four children), aprons for children

Dough – enough for 4 kids size pizza

- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
- 1 1/3 cups warm water (110 degrees to 115 degrees F)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 3/4 cups of flour (ideally bread flour – if not, plain will work)

Instructions:

1. Remind children to wash their hands
2. Mix the yeast with 1 1/3 cups warm water
3. Mix in 1/4 cup of oil, the sugar and the salt
4. Add 3 1/2 cups of flour, and mix well
5. If needed add flour until a dough is formed
6. Knead the dough for around 5 minutes until it is smooth

Using your hands, stretch and bash a ball into a flat disc (you might want to put flour on the table)

Roll it out as thin as possible

Place onto a piece of greaseproof paper (write child's name on the paper)

Spoon on some passata and spread it all over the base. Sprinkle some grated cheese on top and put on some cut vegetables

Bake in a preheated oven (200 Celsius) for 10-15 minutes (depending on how thin the base is)



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Succot Related Story - The Etrog

It was the day before Succot. Sara and David went to the special Succot shop with their uncle to help him choose his Arba'ah Minim – the lulav, etrog, hadasim and aravot. The shop was packed full of people buying their last minute Succot items. Their uncle looked at the lulavim very carefully until he found one that he liked. It was tall and straight.

Next he started to look for his etrog. That took even longer. In the end he found one with which he was really pleased. It was a lovely yellow colour and a great shape. Sara and David were allowed to smell it before it was carefully wrapped up and placed in a special box.

When the hadassim and aravot were chosen it was almost time to go. The children's uncle allowed them each to choose a special decoration for their succah at home. Sara chose some fairy lights to hang from the sechach and David chose a poster of the Kotel.

When their uncle had paid for everything they went back to his home. He put the Arba'ah Minim on the table and told the children not to touch them. He went out of the room to carry on work on his succah.

David said to Sara, 'Let's have another look at the etrog'. I really want to smell it again. '

Sara said, "We are not supposed to touch it, we were told to leave it alone."

"Oh come on, let's just look at it quickly and put it back as fast as we can. No one will know," said her brother.

He went to the table and opened up the etrog box. Peeling back the layers of the special straw that encased the etrog, he pulled it out and sniffed it.

"Come on Sara have a smell, its lovely," he said.

Sara walked over to the table and took the etrog from his hand but, somehow, she missed and she dropped it on the floor!

David and Sara were horrified! They knew that you had to be very careful with an etrog and that you must not drop it in case the little bit at the end called the pitom would break off. If the pitom broke off, their uncle's etrog wouldn't be kosher anymore and he wouldn't be able to use it. They searched on their hands and knees all over the floor to see if they could find the pitom but they couldn't find it. What were they to do?

They decided to sneak out of the house and run back to the shop and speak to the owner. Perhaps he had a spare etrog he could give them?

They ran as fast as they could and arrived at the shop. The etrog seller was still there serving some customers. Politely they waited until he was finished and then they showed him the broken etrog. "What should we do?" they asked him.

Carefully the man looked at the etrog and a big smile crossed his face. "Children, this etrog is a special etrog! It never had a pitom on it in the first place! Some etrogim grow with their pitom inside them and they are kosher too. Your uncle is fine to use this etrog" he said.



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David and Sara were thrilled. Happily, they ran back to their uncle's house and inserted the etrog back in its box before anyone found out. From that day on they never played with an etrog again!



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