



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe Parasha activity sheet that will help you bring Judaism to life in a varied and exciting way. I'd like these activities to enthuse the children and show them how the Torah given almost 3500 years ago is still as relevant and as exciting in our lives today.

Thank you for offering to run a Children's Service, for all the hard work you put into it and for making a real difference to so many young people. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark gives you an overview of the weekly Parasha, songs, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the Parasha or important event that week. Every Children's Service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I am sure the children at your shul will benefit from Spark. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if we can be of any help. Thank you again for the work you do in enabling so many young Jews to access their heritage and traditions in such an exciting way.

All it takes is a small spark of interest, to ignite a flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)  
Spark Editor and Education Consultant

## Succot

### Summary: 5780

Succot is a weeklong Jewish holiday that falls five days after Yom Kippur on 15<sup>th</sup> Tishrei (the 7<sup>th</sup> calendar month of the Jewish year, starting from Nissan) and lasts for 7 days, after which we celebrate Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, which totals 9 days. The first 2 days outside Israel and the last 2 days are special Yom Tov days, while the intermediary days are called 'Chol Hamoed' (In Israel the festival lasts for 8 days, with the first and last day being special Yom Tov days.) Succot is one of the three-foot-festivals, along with Pesach and Shavuot, when in Temple times, the Jewish people living all over the land of Israel would come up to the Beit Mikdash (the Holy Temple) in Jerusalem. Succot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided for the B'nei Yisrael (children of Israel) when they left Egypt.

We celebrate Succot by dwelling in a temporary hut, the walls of which are made of temporary materials such as wood or canvas. The roof, known as the 'Sechach', is made of foliage, ever-green leaves, reeds or bamboo matting. We also take the four special species of vegetation known as the 'Arba Minim' – 'The Four Kinds', which include the Lulav (Palm branch), Etrog (Citron fruit), Haddasim (Myrtle) and Aravot (Willow)

Of all the Jewish holidays, Succot is the only one whose date does not seem to commemorate a historic event. The Torah refers to it by two names: Chag HaAsif ("the Festival of Ingathering," or "Harvest Festival") and Chag HaSuccot ("Festival of Booths"), each expressing a reason for the holiday.

For seven days and nights, we eat our meals in the Succah and otherwise regard it as our home. Located under the open sky, we sit in the Succah and put

our trust and faith in God as the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) did 3500 years ago when they came out of Egypt.

Succot is also called Z'man Simchateinu (the time of our rejoicing).

- For seven days and nights, we eat our meals in the Succah and some people even sleep in the Succah (although this is more common in warmer countries). Located under the open sky, the Succah is made up of at least two and a half walls and a roof of unprocessed natural vegetation, such as bamboo, Laurel leaves or palm branches.
- It is good to spend as much time as possible in the Succah and we try to eat all our meals in the Succah—particularly the festive meals on the first two nights of the festival. Some Jewish people have a custom not to eat a single thing outside the Succah!
- Before we start eating inside the Succah, we say a special blessing;

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוֵּנוּ לִישֵׁב בַּסֻּכָּה**

*Baruch atah, Hashem Elokeinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leishev basuccah.*

*Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe: who has made us holy  
with mitzvot, commanding us to dwell in the succah.*

- If it is the first time we are eating in the Succah this year we say the blessing;

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.**

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

*Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.*

- Whilst we sit in the Succah, our Sages teach us that a famous historical personality 'visits' out Succah on each day of Succot. The special visitors are called 'Ushpizin' which is Aramaic for 'Guests'. The Ushpizin are;

1. Avraham (Abraham)

2. Yitzchak (Isaac)

3. Yaacov (Jacob)

4. Yosef (Joseph)

5. Moshe (Moses)

6. Aharon (Aaron)

7. Dovid (David)

- Another very special Mitzvah (Command) which is observed on Succot is the 'taking' and the waving of the Arba Minim (The Four Species). These species include the Lulav (Palm branch), the Etrog (Citron), the Haddasim (Myrtle) and the Aravot (Willow)

. Place the 3 Haddasim (Myrtle) in the basket on the right of the Lulav (Palm branch) and the 2 Aravot (Willow) in the basket on the left of the Lulav (Palm branch)



Hold the Lulav in your right hand (unless you are left-handed) and the Etrog in your left hand upside down and bring them together, with the spine of the Lulav facing you and say the following blessing:

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל  
נְטִילַת לֻלָב**

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al n'tilat lulav.*

*Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy  
with mitzvot, commanding us to take the lulav*

Now turn the Etrog with the Pittom facing upwards.

(On the first day of Sukkot or the first time on Sukkot you get to do this Mitzvah (Command), at this point say:

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם**

**שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה**

*Ba-ruch A-tah Hashem E-lokhei-nu me-lech ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-  
ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh.*

*Blessed are You, our Hashem our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us  
life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion.*

Now shake the Arba Minim (The Four Species) forward, right, behind, left, up and down and you've done the Mitzvah!

- The Arba Minim can be compared to different parts of the body with which we carry out God's Mitzvot (Commandments).

Lulav – Spine (we use our spines to stand and pray to God, sometimes bowing and standing straight out of respect.)

Etrog – Heart (we love God with all our heart and we also use our heart to show kindness and compassion to those around us).

Haddasim – Lips (we can use our lips to sing and say praises to God. We can also use our lips to speak nicely and politely to other people).

- Every day of Sukkot we say Hallel, a collection of psalms of praise as part of the morning prayer service. Every day aside for Shabbat, we recite Hallel while holding the Arba Minim (Four Species), waving them in different directions at certain key points in the Hallel service. On Shabbat we say Hallel without the Arba Minim.
- We also hold the Arba Minim while we circle the Bimah (central platform on which the Torah is read) holding the Four Kinds, reciting special prayers.
- We read Megillat Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) on the intermediary Shabbat of Succot. Tradition credits King Solomon as the author of this Megillah and it is one of the five Megillot (Scrolls) read annually.
- The seventh day of Succot is known as Hoshanah Rabbah. On this day in the Synagogue, we circle the Bimah (central platform) seven times. We also say a short prayer and strike the ground five times with bundles of five willows (also known as Hoshanot).
- On Succot, God determines how much rain will fall that winter (the primary rainy season in Israel). In Temple times, water was also poured over the altar in a special ceremony. This occasion was such a happy

time that it was celebrated with music, dancing and singing all night long. *(This ceremony was called the 'SIMCHAT BEIT HASHOEVA' and is the focus of the Succot Tribe Scribe).*

- Even today, when there is no Temple, it is customary to hold nightly celebrations that include singing and dancing (and even live music during the intermediate days of the holiday).
- The very last day of the festival is known as Simchat Torah, when we celebrate the completion of the Torah reading and start reading it from the very first Parasha (Torah portion) Bereishit. This is symbolic of the never-ending cycle of Torah learning.
- On Simchat Torah we dance with the Torah scrolls and every single man is called to the Torah. Then all the children get called up to the Torah and stand under a huge canopy of Tallitot (Prayer Shawls) held aloft by a number of men. The children all recite the Bracha (blessing) for the Torah together.

## Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

### Activity 1

#### SUCCOT NAME GAME

Review items related to Sukkot before this game is played.

The children should form a circle (seated on chairs or on the floor). A volunteer is selected to be in the centre of the circle.

An object, such as a small ball or Succah decoration is passed around the circle.

At any time the volunteer chooses, s/he shouts a letter of the (English, not Hebrew) alphabet. The person holding the object when the volunteer shouts the

letter must respond by calling out, as quickly as possible, one item, name or place related to Succot that begins with that letter. The time limit for calling out the item is one full revolution of the object around the circle. That person can be asked to explain the connection between the item and the festival.

If the person holding the object is successful in the allotted time period, s/he changes place with the person in the centre.

You could use the Hebrew Alef-Bet. Review items related to Sukkot before the game is played. No letter can be given twice.

Instead of just Succot, you could broaden it out to anything related to Judaism.

## **Activity 2**

### **PACKING FOR A SUCCAH VISIT**

Players sit in a circle and begin to think about what they would need for a succah visit (blessings, kiddush cup, decorations, food, ushpizin etc.)

Each player, in turn, begins by saying: "On my visit to the Succah, I will bring a Challah." Next player repeats the first object and adds their own. "On my visit to the Succah I will bring a Challah and a kiddush cup."

Player could then say a word and do an action. Others repeat words and actions. If a player has trouble remembering, allow others to give hints.

**Story – ‘The Little Red Rabbi’ (based on the well-known story of ‘The Little Red Hen’).**



*This is such a great story  
about the Little red Rabbi,  
I’m sure you can help me  
tell it!*



**One day the Little Red Rabbi was so excited because Yom Kippur had just finished and he wanted to start building his Su.... But the Little Red Rabbi needed some help building his Su.... And so he called his good friends Mi....., Mich.... And Mor...**

**‘Hi Mi....., would you be able to come over and help me build my Su....?’ ‘I’m so sorry’ said Mi..... ‘but I’ve got a hospital check-up and I simply can’t miss it.’ ‘That’s okay’, said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘I’ll build the Succah my.....’**

**Then the Little Red Rabbi called Mich..... ‘Hi Mich....., would you be able to come over and help me build my Su....?’ ‘I’m so sorry’ said Mich..... ‘but I’ve got to wait at home for a very important parcel to arrive and I don’t want to miss it.’ ‘That’s okay’, said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘I’ll build the Succah my.....’**

**Then the Little Red Rabbi called Mor..... ‘Hi Mor....., would you be able to come over and help me build my Su....?’ ‘I’m so sorry’ said Mor..... ‘but I’ve got to take my hamster to the vet because she’s not very well.’ ‘That’s okay’, said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘I’ll build the Succah my.....’**

**So the Little Red Rabbi got his tool kit from the garage and took out a hammer, some screwdrivers, scissors, tape, string and some pliers. He worked and worked and at last his Succah was ready.**

**‘Now for the decorations’, he said. He put up pictures and paper chains and fruit and flowers and made the Succah look really fantastic.**

**But the Little Red Rabbi and his family absolutely loved having guests in their Su..... So the Little Red Rabbi called Mi....., Mich..... and Mo.... and invited them for lunch. So on the first day of Succot, the Little Red Rabbi, his family and Michael, Michaela and Morris all sat in the Succah which had been built by the Little Red Rabbi and had such a wonderful time.**

**'Welcome to my Succah everyone. I hope you really have a great time. Chag Sameach!**

## **Children's Service: Years 3- 6**

### **Activity 1**

**What am I?**

**At the bottom of the Spark you will find images of Succot. These should be prepared before Succot begins.**

**Give each child a Succot image, but tell them not to show it to anyone else.**

**Sitting in a circle, choose one child to come to the centre of the circle. The children sitting in the circle should take it in turns to ask questions to the child in the centre so as to determine what Succot object s/he has got a picture of.**

**The child who guesses correctly takes their place in the centre of the circle.**

**Example questions could be;**

- 1. Are you a person?**
- 2. Do you grow in the ground?**
- 3. Can I see you?**
- 4. Do you have a ceiling?**
- 5. Are you yellow?**
- 6. Are you used in Shul?**
- 7. Do you smell nice?**

## Activity 2 - Quiz Time – It is important to run through some of the information at the top of the Spark, before starting the quiz.

1. Succot is one of the Shalosh Regalim (The 3 Foot Festivals). What are the names of the other two? (**Pesach and Shavuot**)
2. How many Minim (Species) do we shake on Succot? (**4**)
3. What are the names of the 4 species? (**Lulav, Etrog, Haddasim, Aravot**)
4. Please name 2 out of the 7 Ushpizin, special guests who visit our Succot on each day of the festival. (**Avraham - Abraham, Yitzchak - Isaac, Yaacov - Jacob, Yosef - Joseph, Moshe - Moses, Aharon - Aaron, Dovid - David**)
5. On which date in the Jewish calendar does Succot start? (**15<sup>th</sup> Tishrei**)
6. Which one of the five Megillot is read on the festival of Succot? (**Kohelet – Ecclesiastes**)
7. What is the Bracha (Blessing) which is said before eating in the Succah? (**Leshev Basuccah**)
8. Why do we celebrate on Simchat Torah? (**We finish reading the Parashot – portions and start again from the beginning**)
9. On which special day do we pray for rain in the land of Israel? (**Shemini Atzeret**)
10. Apart from a prayer book, what else do we hold when we say the special Hallel prayer on Succot? (**The Arba Minim – The 4 species**)

The Book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) is read on Succot. This book was written by King Solomon, the wisest of all men and it includes many insights on how we should live our lives.

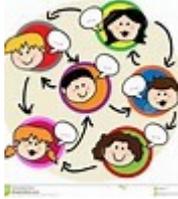
Here are a few quotes from Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) and some discussion points which follow. It is interesting to hear what the children understand by these sayings. I have added a possible explanation for each one, but this is really quite a challenging activity!

1. 'All the rivers run in to the sea, yet the sea is not full.' (Chapter 1 verse 7).
2. 'That which is crooked cannot be made straight.' (Chapter 1 verse 15).
3. 'What has been will be again...There is nothing new under the sun.'

(Chapter 1 verse 9)

4. 'The end of the matter, after all is heard: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the purpose of man.'

### Discussion points



- If all rivers run in to the sea, how can the sea not be full? What do you think King Solomon is trying to teach us? (Could be talking about the Torah – however much Torah we learn, there is always more to learn. Our hearts are never full of Torah).
- What do you think the second quote is teaching us? [If people do wrong they should put it right (straight) because in the World to Come, wrongs cannot be made right]
- Why do you think King Solomon said that there is nothing new under the sun? (Judaism believes that God created everything and continues to do so. However, it is up to humans to make the most of those natural resources that were and continue to be created by God)

# Tefilla Treasures



זֶה הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה ה', נְגִילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה  
בו

***Zeh Hayom Asah Hashem,  
Nagila venismecha vo***

**‘This is the day God has  
made, let us rejoice and be  
happy on it’**

**This prayer is said or sung as part of Hallel, a  
special prayer added after the Amida on special  
days such as Succot.**

**But this line is one which we should all have in our minds at the start of each day.**

**Sometimes the start of the day doesn't go so well for us and things look bleak. Perhaps the clouds are grey and the rain is falling. Or perhaps you've got a difficult day ahead at school. Try saying to yourself, 'God created this day and I'm going to try and find the best parts of it!'**

## Songs

The links have been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children these songs.



### FOUNTAINHEADS "Livin' in a Booth"

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=lyrics+for+fountain-heads+I+want+to+build+a+booth#id=1&vid=6abec64309cfa0d27ff2cddb4e8af4fa&action=click>

It's a beautiful night  
We're looking for something fun to do  
Hey baby

I think I wanna build a booth

Is it the stars in the sky?

Or is it these dancing Jews?

Well who cares, baby

I think we're livin' in a booth

Well, in my tabernacle  
I got everything we need

For the show  
With my Etro-oog  
So, come on now

Who cares if it rains  
Gotta whole lotta chains

Don't you know  
This Schach doesn't go  
It stays on, yo

Don't say no no no no no  
Say lu lav lav lav lav lav

And we'll go go go go go  
If you're shakin', like I'm shakin'

Cause it's a beautiful night  
We're looking for something fun to do  
Hey baby

I think I wanna build a booth

Is it the stars in the sky

Or is it these dancing Jews?  
Who cares, baby  
I think we're livin' in a booth

Campin out here  
There's nothing to fear

We'll go far  
Under the stars  
It's all right girl.

If we wake up and the  
Sukkah breaks up, that's cool

No, I won't blame you

Let's just run yo

Don't say no no no no no  
Say lu lav lav lav lav lav  
And we'll go go go go

If you're shakin, like I'm shakin'

U'shavtem mayim besasson (draw water with joy)

Mimaynei hayshua (from the wellsprings of salvation)  
Waters overflow  
From the fountains of salvation

Oooh....

Just dwell in booths  
Say it right now baby,  
Say it right now baby

Just dwell in booths  
Say it right now baby,

Say it right now!





