

Caring for Animals: Nurturing Respect for All Kinds of Critters



Webinar 7

May 15, 2012

“Values to Live By” Webinar Series



Workshop Goals

To explore:

- Ways of using PJ books to teach kindness to animals
- The gamut of kindness to animal programs
- How to combine **words/language** with **activities** to breathe new life into the value of caring for animals



The Jewish Value of *Tzaar Ba'alei Hayim*

Literally "the suffering of living beings"



Goal of Mitzvah- to minimize the suffering of animals and encourage humane treatment

Sources for the Mitzvah of Kindness to Animals

- A man is forbidden to eat before he has fed his animal for it says: “I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle” and then it says: “you shall eat your fill” (Deuteronomy 11:15)
Berakhot 40a
- When a man has compassion on God’s creatures, compassion is shown him from Heaven. But when a man has no compassion on God’s creatures, no compassion is shown him from heaven. **Shabbat 151b**



More Sources on Kindness to Animals



- No animal from the herd or from the flock shall be slaughtered on the same day with its young. **Leviticus 22:28**



- You shall not plow with an ox and an ass together. **Deuteronomy 22:10**

- You shall not muzzle an ox while it is threshing. **Deuteronomy 25:4**

Additional Sources



- Even those things that you may hold superfluous in the world, such as fleas, gnats, and flies, even they are part of the creation of the world. **Genesis Rabbah 10:7**



- Do not be scornful of any person, and do not be disdainful of any thing, for you have no person without his hour, and you have no thing without its place. **Pirkei Avot 4:3**
- A man may not purchase an animal, tame or wild, or a fowl, unless he has prepared feed for it. **Palestinian Talmud, Yevamot 15:3, 14d**

Characteristics of 3-5's

- Reaching out beyond family
- Interested in friends, trying on diverse roles
- Developing a conscience, sense of right and wrong, justice, fairness



3-5's : A Growing Interest in Animals

- Kids as young as 11 months are more interested in live animals than toys
- Children talk more about animals and ask more questions about animals than toys
- Studies of the dreams of children younger than age 6 reveal that as many as 80% of their dreams are about animals
- (Acuff 1997, Patterson 2000)



More on Kids and Animals



- 42% of Indiana 5-year-olds spontaneously mentioned a pet when asked "who do you turn to when you are feeling sad, angry, happy, or wanting to share a secret?"
- One study of 5-6 year olds showed that those who were more attached to their pets showed greater empathy towards peers

Aligning Torah Values with Child Development

Feed animals first

Plan carefully
before acquiring a
pet



Be kind to
animals-Don't
allow animals
to suffer

Appreciate animal
diversity-
"Everything
Counts"

Possible Locations for Kindness to Critters Programs



Zoos
Farms
Nature Centers
Aquariums
Animal shelters
Classrooms
Private Homes



Structure of a Caring for Critters Program

Time Schedule

- Opening Activity- 10 minutes
- Book Reading- 10 minutes
- Discussion -5 minutes
- Follow-up Activities – 10-25 minutes
- Snack (optional) 5-10 minutes
- Concluding circle/music- 5 minutes

Total Time: 45-75 minutes



Taking it Home



Understanding
of Jewish
roots of value



New friends,
new connections
to community



Ways to integrate
kindness to animals
into daily life

Books By Values

Kindness to Animals 3-5 year olds

Bubbee Isabella and the Sukkot Cake

Noah's Bed

King Solomon and the Bee

Old MacNoah Had an Ark

Latkes and Applesauce

Old Noah's Elephant

Littlest Pair, The

One Little Chicken

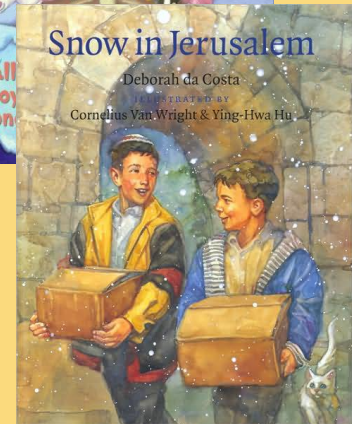
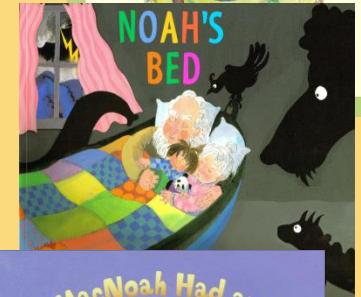
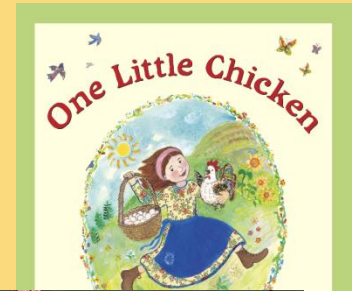
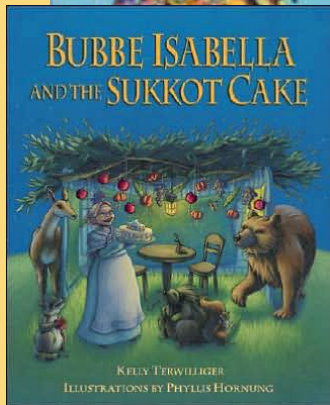
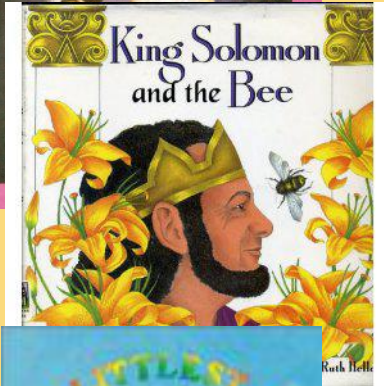
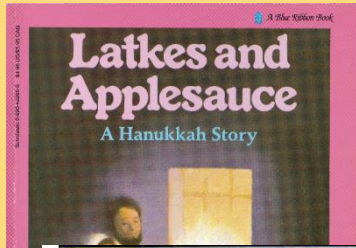
Na'amah and the Ark at Night

Sammy Spider's First Day of School

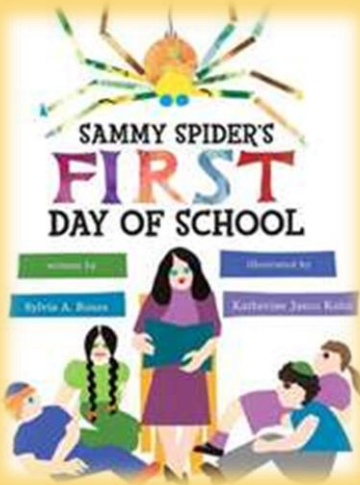
Noah's Bark

Snow in Jerusalem

World's Birthday, The



Sammy Spider's First Day of School



Recounts what happens when Sammy accompanies Josh to school. Josh, Sammy, and Josh's classmates learn the story of Noah's ark and discuss ways of practicing kindness to animals



Tzaar Ba'alei Hayim as Presented in Sammy's First Day of School



Shannon rubs the back of her cat's neck



Todd plays catch with his dog



Josh feeds the class goldfish



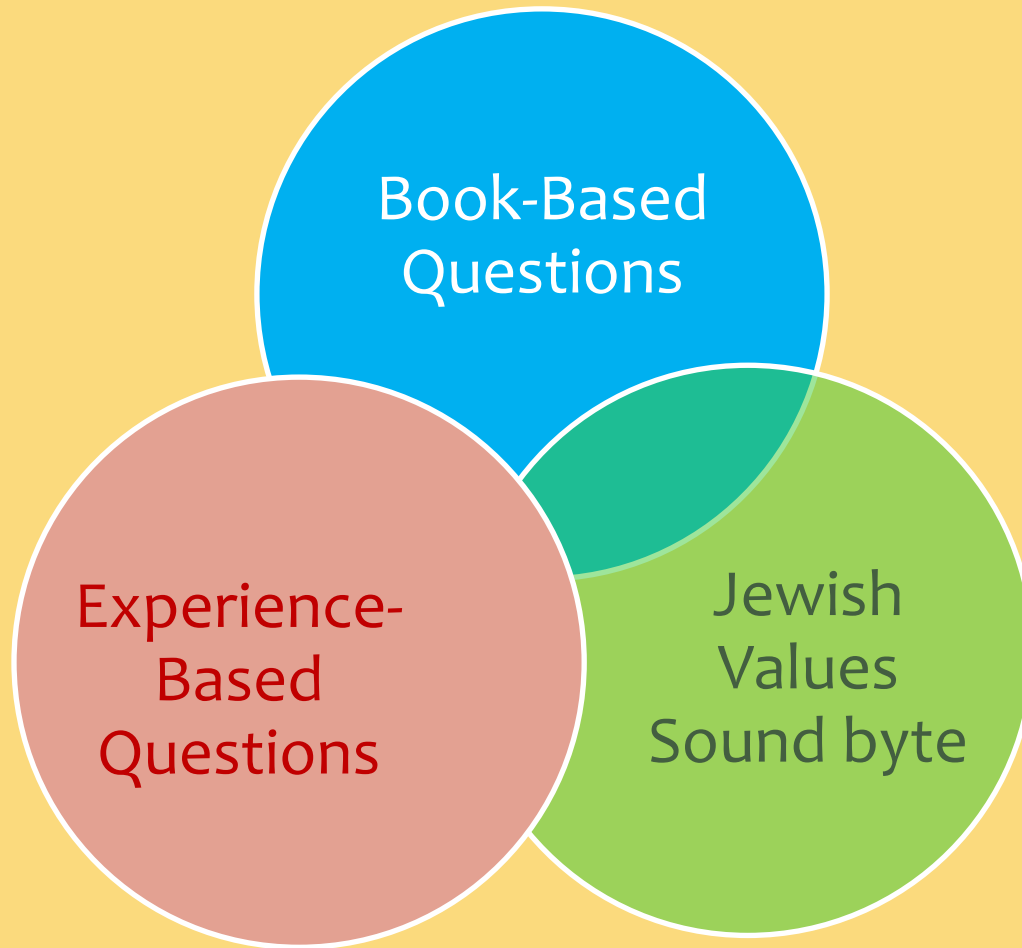
Josh protects Sammy from harm



Josh releases Sammy outdoors



Components of Values-based Book Discussions



Book -Based Questions

- *Josh's teacher learned that many of the children in the class owned pets. Do you remember some of the ways in which the children took care of their pets at home?*
- *At school, did Josh and his friends behave kindly towards the animals? What kind acts did they do?*



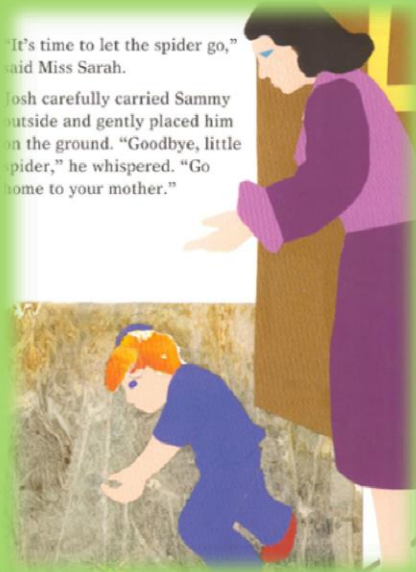
Experience-Based Questions

- *Raise your hand if you have a pet at home.*
- *How do you help take care of your pet?*
- *Even if you don't own a pet, can you still be kind to animals? What can you do?*



Jewish Values Sound byte

- Noah, in the Bible, and Sammy Spider's friend, Josh, practiced an important Jewish mitzvah called **tzaar ba'alei hayim**-which means not harming animals.
- Noah and Josh were very kind to animals. Noah made sure that the animals stayed dry during the flood and that they were comfortable on his ark. Josh made certain that no one stepped on Sammy.



"It's time to let the spider go," said Miss Sarah.

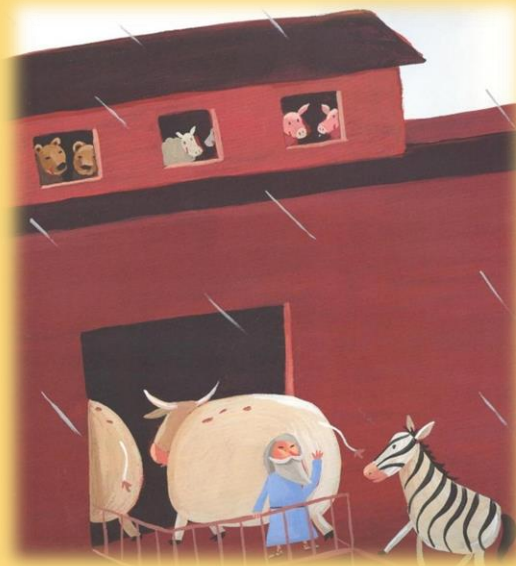
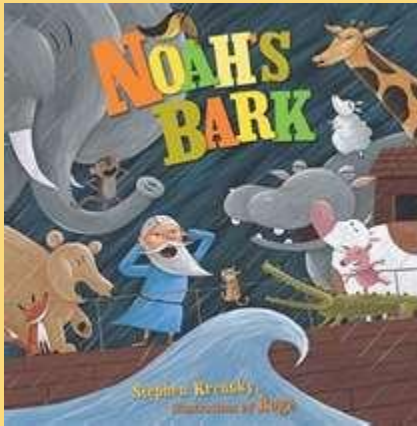
Josh carefully carried Sammy outside and gently placed him on the ground. "Goodbye, little spider," he whispered. "Go home to your mother."

From Sound byte to Action

- How can we be like Noah and Josh perform the mitzvah of **tzaar ba'alei hayim**, being kind to animals?
- Let's think about some of the animals that we see everyday. How can we be kind to the birds and squirrels who visit our backyards?
- How about when we go to the beach - How can we practice **tzaar ba'alei hayim** towards the fish, seals, and seagulls?



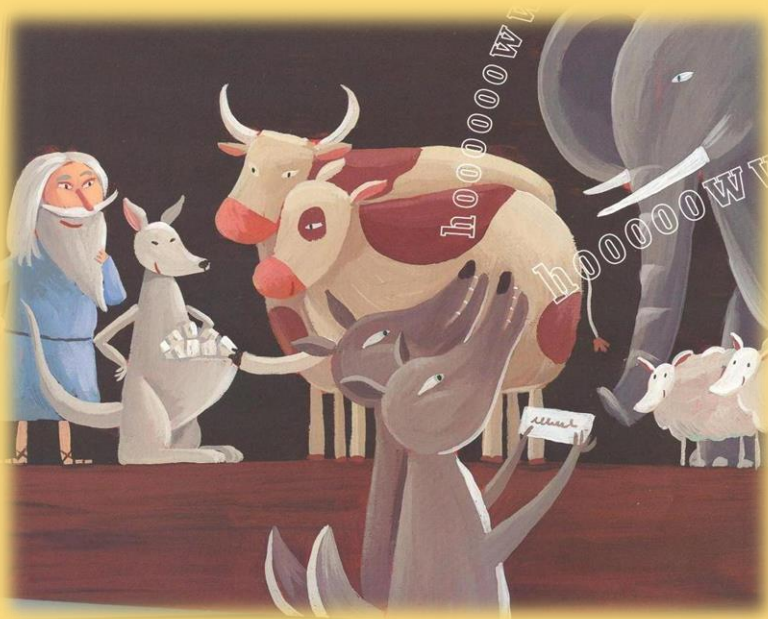
Noah's Bark



Another book in which Noah serves as a role model for tzaar ba'alai hayim. Not only does Noah save the animals from the flood, but he helps the animals solve another problem as well, and, in so doing, teaches of the importance of respecting animal diversity.



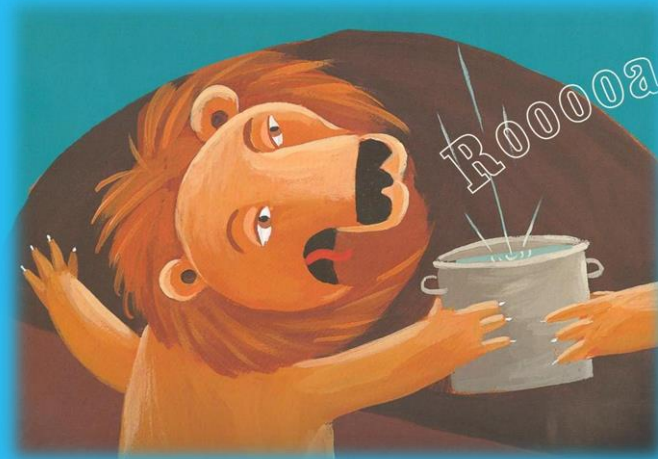
Acquiring a Sense of Self and Identity



Once each animal acquired its own sound it began to feel as if it truly were unique and special. Not only did Noah feed the animals and keep them warm, dry, and safe, but he also contributed to their emotional well-being. Noah was one of the first to recognize that “everything counts”.

Book-Based Questions

- Was Noah nice to the animals on the ark? In what ways did he help them?
- Were the animals happy once they were given their own special sound? Why did the animals like having their own sound?



Experience-Based Questions

- Not only does every animal need its own sound, but every animal needs to be treated in its own special way. I bet many of you own animals and know exactly how to care for them. If you own a dog, what do you need to do in order to take care of it? How about fish or gerbils? How do you care for them?



Values Sound byte

- Noah needed to make sure that the animals were happy and comfortable on his ark. When we're kind to animals and help them feel comfortable we say that we are practicing the mitzvah of **tzaar ba'alei hayim**-
- Noah and other people in the Torah, as well as the Rabbis of today and yesterday, have given us some special rules to follow as we try to be kind to animals. According to Judaism, we must



- Feed our animals before we feed ourselves.
- Allow our animals to rest on Shabbat
- Plan carefully before bringing an animal into our house. Make sure we have enough food and space for the animal
- Remember that every animals is important and serves a special purpose

From Sound byte to Action

- Since we're about to have snack, let's think about how we might fulfill the mitzvah of feeding animals before we feed ourselves. Are there any animals outside that we could feed? What might they like to eat?
- Do you think that Noah and the Rabbis were right? Are all animals important? Do we need to care for every animal in its own special way?

Is a spider important? What does a spider do?

How about a ladybug? How is she important? What should we do if we find these insects in our house?



Kindness to Animal Activities

Making Bird Feeders and Bird Baths



Cat Peek-a-boo Boxes



Making Pet Treats

Veggie Doggie Bagels

Ingredients:

1 tsp. Veg. oil
½ c. Wheat Flour
2 ½ c. White Flour
¼ tsp. Baking soda
¼ tsp. Baking powder
½ c. Chopped spinach
½ c. Chopped carrots
1 Egg
¾ C. Water

Directions: Preheat to 350 degrees. Combine wet and dry ingredients separately. Then mix together. Knead by hand. Form into ball shaped pieces. Depending on your dog's size, try forming balls either the shape of golf or tennis ball. Flatten and poke a hole in the center and shape into a bagel. Bake for 45-50 minutes.






Nature Center Scavenger Hunt

Name of Animal	Something which this animal needs in order to be happy:
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Jot down the names of some of the animals which you see as you explore the nature trail/beach/pond area. Each time you see an animal, try to discover at least one thing which this animals needs in order to be happy.

Zoo Animal Scavenger Hunt

Animal	Something which this animal needs in order to be happy:
<p>Spider Monkey</p> 	
<p>Leopards</p> 	
<p>Capybara</p> 	

Scavenger Hunt Introduction

- Noah knew how to care for every animal on his ark. Like Noah, you, too, can learn how to care for many different animals.
- In order to practice kindness to animals, we must first understand what each animal needs in order to be happy. Right now you're going to become an animal happiness detective. You and your family are going to search for several different animals. For each animal that you find, try to figure out what that animal needs in order to be safe, comfortable, and well-fed.
- We have a chart for you to fill out which will help you keep track of all of the animals that you see. Once you've completed your chart, please show it a PJ official (someone wearing a PJ shirt) and he/she will give you a reward for having completed your chart.
- Once you've become an expert on bringing happiness to animals, you may be ready to take the kindness to animals pledge. Ask your PJ official to tell you about how you can sign up to become a kindness to animals partner.



Scavenger Hunt Prize=Certificate + Bag of Animal Food



Animal Kindness Certificate

_____ (*insert child's/ name*)

is an animal kindness detective who has discovered how to bring happiness to many different animals.

The thumbprint on the bottom of this page indicates that _____ promises to practice the mitzvah of kindness to animals as often as possible.

Date:

Zookeeper Guided Activities

- Tour of zoo at feeding time (Kids help prepare food)
- Workshop on Animal Stimulation (Kids create toys and props for stimulation)
- Hands on exploration of animals, with an emphasis on the care and feeding of each animal



Nature Center Activities



- Workshop on caring for outdoor animals
- Guided “hike” focusing on what animals need to survive and thrive in the outdoors
- Touch tank/table with focus on ways of gently handling and caring for animals



Follow-Up Resources

Possible Items/Notes to Send to Families:

- Addresses of local zoo's, farms, animal related facilities
- Lists of items needed for donation for local zoo's, animal shelters, etc.
- Recipes for Pet Treats
- Instructions for making bird feeders/bird baths
- Links to articles on tzaar ba'alei hayim, or teaching kids kindness to animals



Teaching
Kids
Compassion
Toward
Animals