



PJ Love Stories

Using PJ Library Books to Explore the
Jewish Concept of Love

June 2, 2015

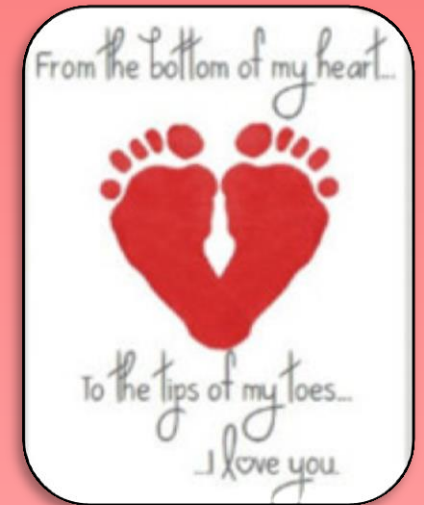


JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS



Why Run Programs that Focus on Love?

- Love programs can be held at many different times throughout the year
- Parents appreciate programs that provide guidance on how to raise “good” (i.e. kind, loving) kids
- Kids will easily relate to Judaism’s action-oriented approach to love



Young Children's Understanding of Love

-Young children define love primarily through **actions**.

-Children believe that love is related to **helping behaviors**.

- *When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. - Rebecca, age 8*
- *Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs. – Chrissy, age 6*
- *Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." – Elaine, age 5*
- *I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.- Lauren, age 4*

Jewish Definitions of Love

- In Hebrew, the word for love is “Ahava” - אהבה
- The root of Ahava –"בה"- means **to give**.
- Love involves giving - giving one's **time, attention, admiration, respect** to others.



Mussar leader Rabbi Eliyahu Eliezer Dessler is frequently quoted as defining love from the Jewish point-of-view as **"giving without expecting to take."**

More Jewish Definitions of Love

Torah Definition:

“Love your neighbor as yourself”

Love involves treating others with the same fairness, thoughtfulness, and care as one would like to receive from others.



Love, Honor, Admiration of Parents

1. “Honor your parents”
(in Hebrew, *Kibud Av V'eim*)
refers to **positive “to do” actions**

- Provide food, shelter, clothing
- Support parents, especially as they age
- Give parents the same type of support and care that they gave you when you were young
- Stand when parents enter a room
(Maimonides Sefer Hamitzvot II)

2. “Revere/Fear” refers to the **“don’t do” actions**

- Do not disrespect, disgrace or degrade parents, particularly in public (Maimonides Sefer Hamitzvot II)

3. Admire

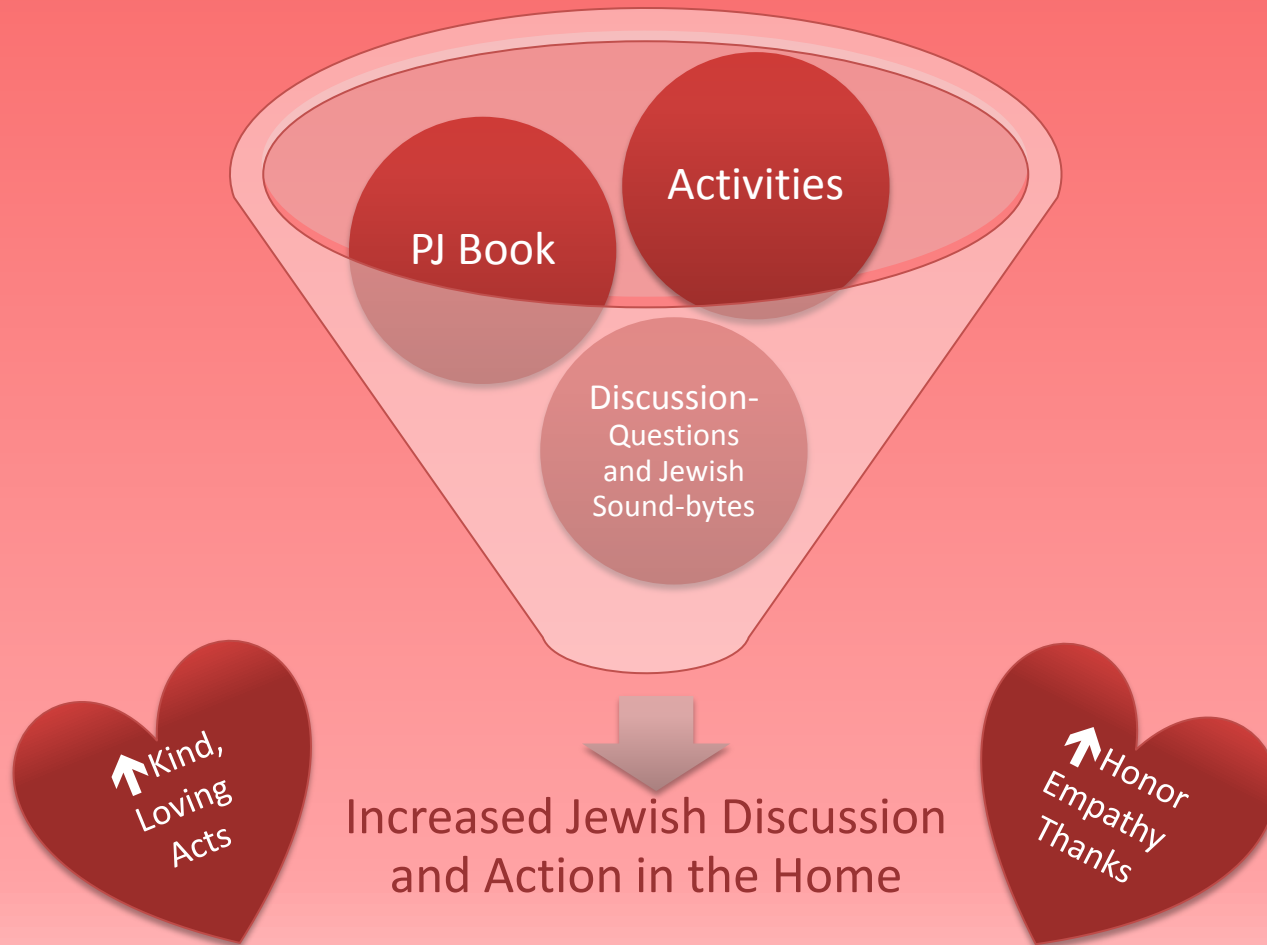
- You should make a specific effort to love your parents, to the point of developing hero worship! You should try to discover the qualities that make your parents extraordinary, among the greatest people alive (Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz).

Goals of Book Based “Love of Parents” Programs

- Help children recognize the deep bonds of love that connect them to their parents.
- Introduce children to effective techniques for expressing their love and gratitude towards their parents.
- Encourage families to express their love for one another on a daily basis.
- Strengthen Familial Bonds
- Create or strengthen friendships between families

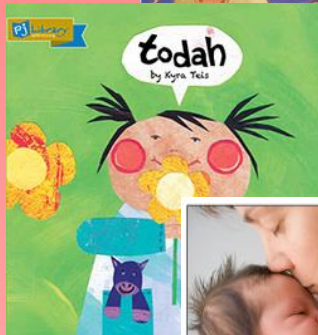
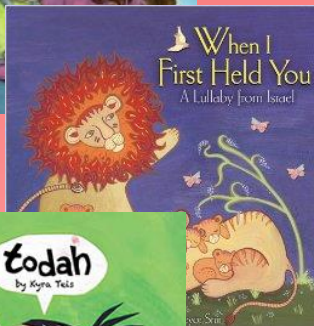
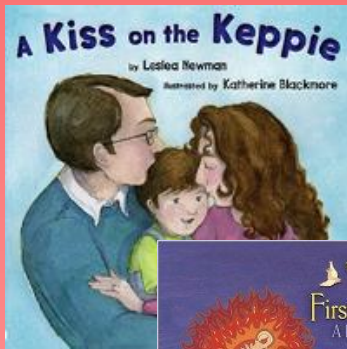


Elements of Book Based Program

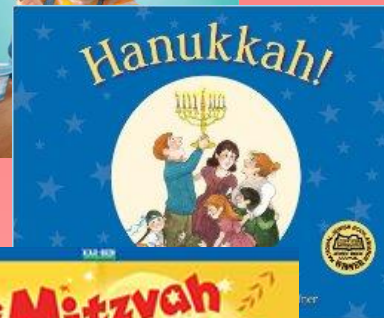


PJ Love Stories- Love of Parents

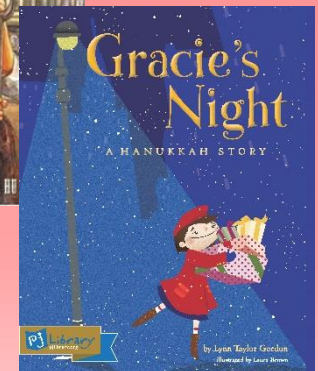
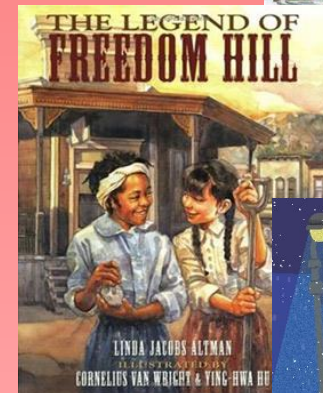
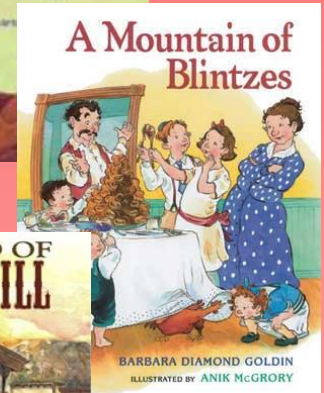
Baby and Toddlers



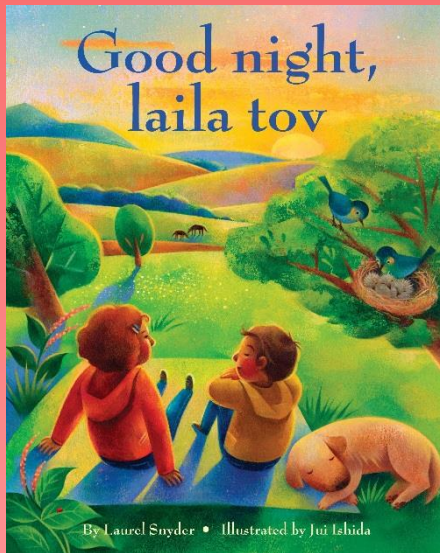
Preschool



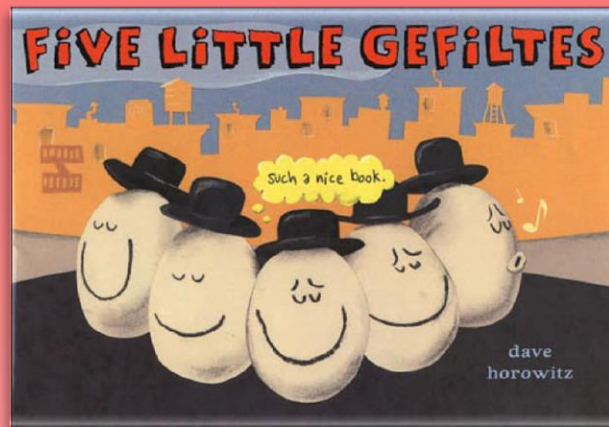
Elementary School



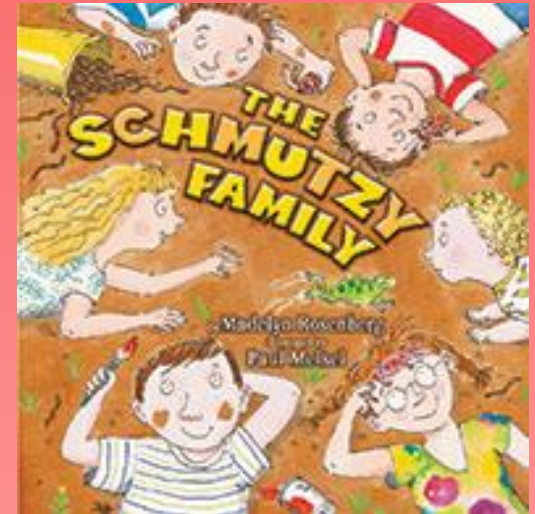
A Closer Look at 3 “Love of Parents” Books



By: Laurel Snyder
Illustrated by: Jui Ishida
Ages 2-4



Written and Illustrated by:
Dave Horowitz
Ages: 3-5



By: Madelyn Rosenberg
Illustrated by: Paul Meisel
Ages: 4-8

Good Night, Laila Tov



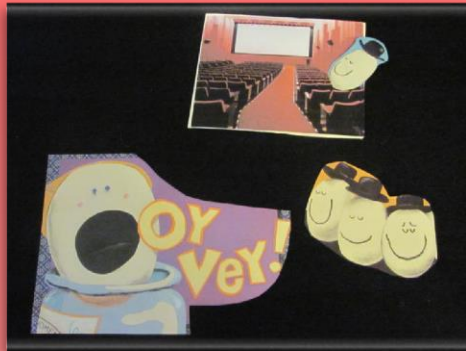
Love Lesson

Love involves spending time with and cherishing one another's company

Love can involve going on trips and journeys with loved ones

Love means taking care of one another's needs

Five Little Gefiltes

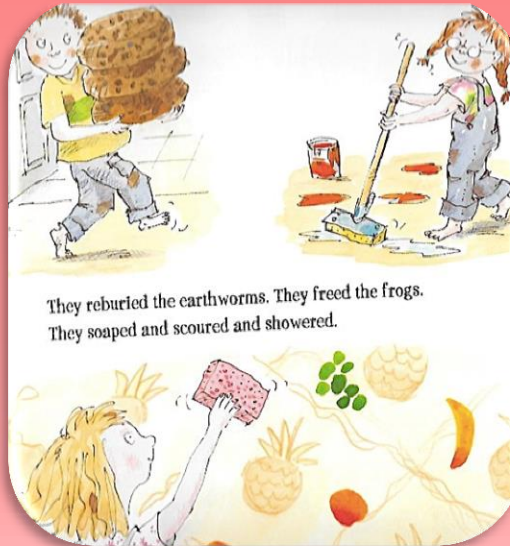
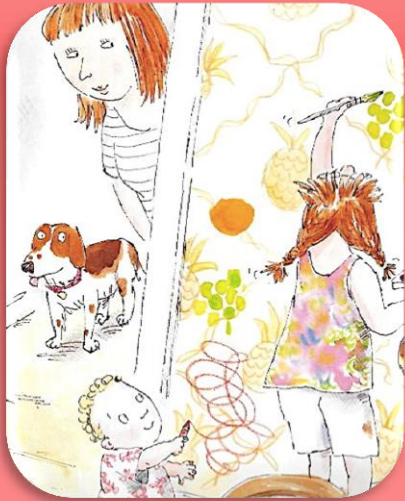


Love Lessons

Empathy- Trying to understand the feelings of others is an important ingredient of love

Grown children can honor their parents by visiting them often. Younger children can honor their parents by following their parents rules and helping their parents in big and small ways.

The Schmutzy Family



Love Lessons

Love involves:

- Accepting and encouraging one another's interests and abilities
- Helping one another

Post- Reading Discussion Questions

- How do the parents in this book show their love to their children?
- How do the children in this show love to their parents?



Sample Discussion Questions and Jewish Soundbytes

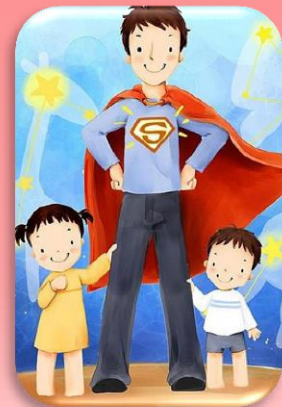


The Torah and the Rabbis have given us lots of instructions on how we can honor and show love to our parents. Did you know that if a parent is sleeping, you're not supposed to wake him/her up? Some say that if a parent comes into a room, we should jump to our feet and stand up to show our honor and respect. **How do you show your love to your parents?**

The Torah, the most important book of Judaism, lists 10 important rules that Jewish people should try to follow. These rules are called the 10 Commandments. The fifth of these 10 rules tells us to honor our parents. **What does the word honor mean?** (*To listen to our parents, to treat them nicely, to help them...*)

The children in our book show honor and love to their mother by coming back to visit her (by putting blankets on their sleeping parents, by helping to clean the house). **Can you describe ways in which you show honor to your parents?**

One Rabbi says that we should try to see our parents as superheroes - as people who possess special powers. The mother in our book is pretty special. She's not bothered by mess and she even likes to make messes herself. **Can you describe one of your parent's superpowers?**



Love of Parents Craft Projects



Parents (and grandparents) often take kids to special places because they want to share adventures with those whom they love. This project will give you a chance to keep track of some of the special places that you visit with your loved ones. As you read about some of your trips, we hope you'll remember to say thank you to the person who has taken the time to travel with you.

Sometimes it's important to let the important people in your life know how much you love them. Here's a fun project that you can work on with someone you love. Once you've decorated your heart, open up your card and write notes to the ones you love.

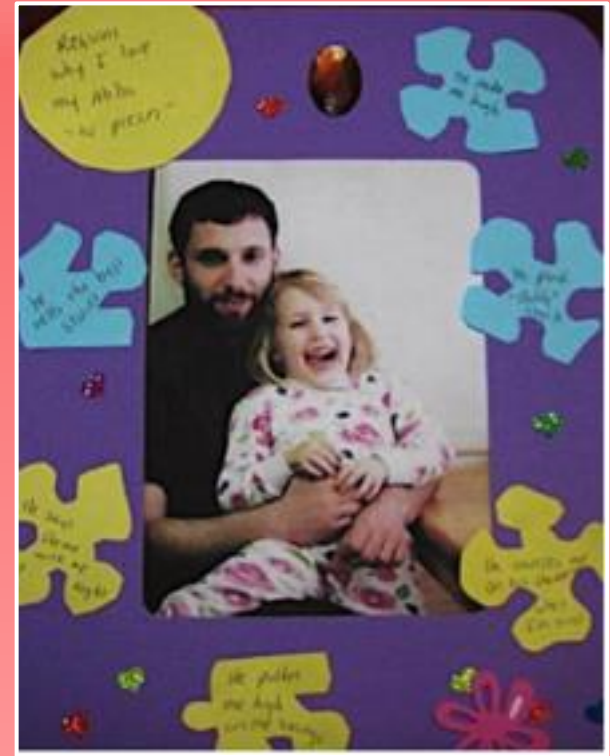
More Love of Parents Craft Projects



The rabbis teach that one of the ways in which children can honor and show love to their parents is by making sure that their parents are able to get enough sleep.

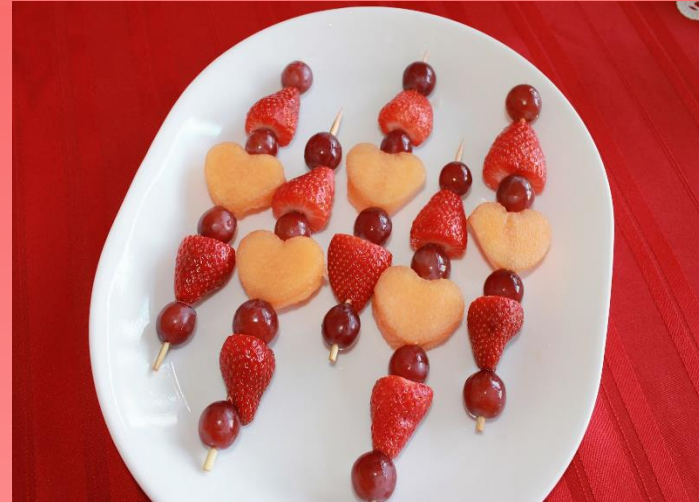


Think of kind ,helpful things you can do for your parents (i.e. make breakfast; pick up toys, set the table.)
Make coupons that your parents can give to you whenever they'd like you to do something special for them.



Parents (and kids) love looking at pictures of the people whom they love. This project will help those pictures become even more special. Not only will you decorate a frame but you'll add notes to the frame, letting the person in the photo know just how much you love them.

Love Bites



The rabbis list ways in which children should show honor to their parents. They note that as parents get older, children should feed their parents, providing them with food that they love and are used to. This activity gives you a chance to show your love for your parents by preparing a special snack for them. As you make a snack for your parent, perhaps your parents will make a snack for you.

Partner Activities- Helping Families Form Friendships

Love Thoughts

My Name:

My Age:

Names of the adults in my family:
Circle the name of one adult. This adult will become your "special adult" for this form.

Three things I love to do with my special adult:

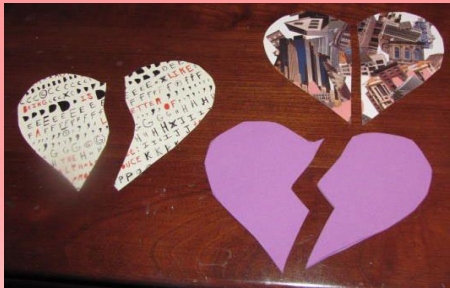
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three reasons why I love my special adult:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

As you were working on your project, we passed out one half of a colorful heart to each family. Your job is to find the family who has a heart- half that matches your own.

*Ages 2-4: **Heart Scavenger Hunt:** With your partner, work together as a team, seeing how many small hearts you can find that match your large heart. Once you've collected and counted your small hearts, give your parents the same number of hugs and/or kisses as the number of hearts that you found.*



Ages 5-8: Find a place to sit with your partner, and share some of the answers of your love questionnaire with one another.

Love, Honor, and Admiration of Grandparents

- “Parents have to worry about who children will become in the future; their role is to be providers and disciplinarians. Grandparents can just enjoy children for who they are in the moment. The love of a grandparent is often freer, more unconditional, and far less psychologically complex than a parent's love.” (Susan V. Bosak, excerpt from *How to Build the Grandma Connection*)
- Grandparents provide children with a better sense of who they are and where they've come from. Grandparents provide roots, a history, and a sense of continuity and perspective.
- Research indicates that children who share close relationships with their grandparents develop higher self-esteem, better emotional and social skills, and receive higher grades



Jewish Sources on Loving and Honoring Grandparents

- “You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old; you shall revere your God, I am the Eternal.” (Leviticus 19:32)
- “Rising” is simply an act that can feign deference without actually doing something about it. “Showing deference” (from the Hebrew root h-d-r, which can mean “beautify” or “glorify”) represents intentional actions that take place between people, and adhering to this mitzvah (sacred obligation) requires positive actions in order to fulfill it. What this means is that our approach to the aging is two-fold: attitudinal and behavioral.
- “Grandchildren are the crowning glory of grandparents.” (Proverbs 17:6)



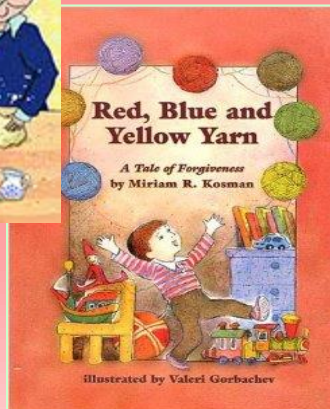
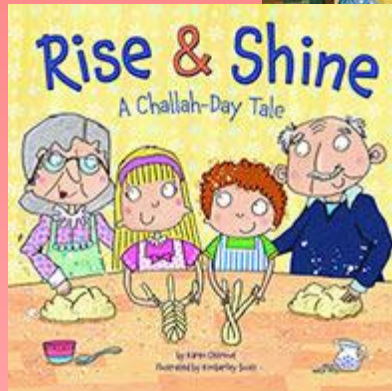
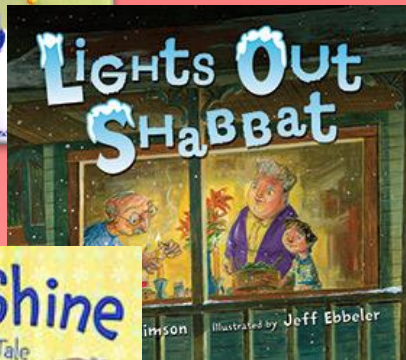
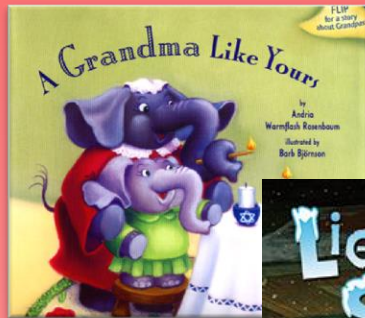
Goals of Book-Based “Love of Grandparents” Programs

- Help children recognize the deep bonds of love that connect them to their grandparents.
- Introduce children to effective techniques for expressing their love and gratitude towards their grandparents.
- Stimulate rich discussion and sharing of experiences between generations
- *Programs can be attended with grandparents or another special senior adult or children can use program as a time for making gifts for grandparents

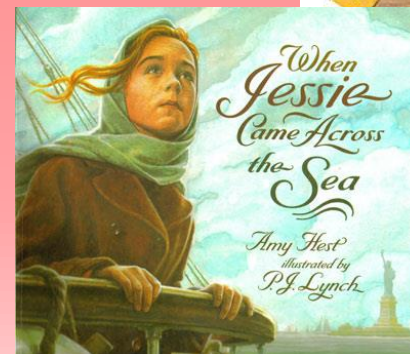
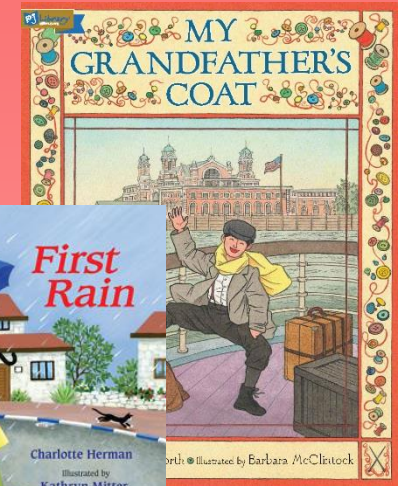


PJ Love Stories- Love of Grandparents

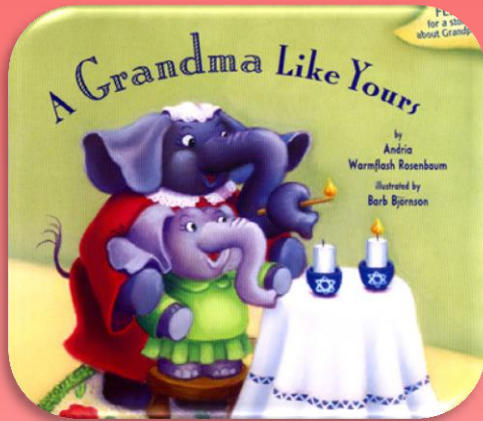
Toddlers and Preschoolers



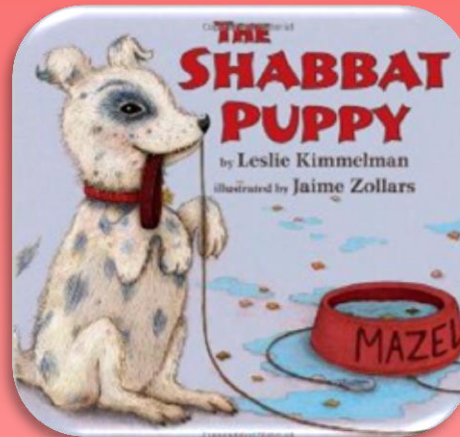
Early Elementary



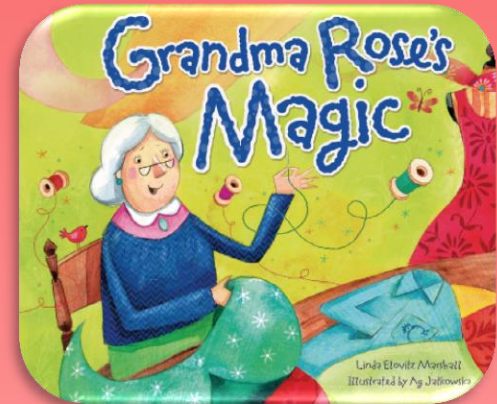
A Closer Look at 3 Love of Grandparents Books



**By: Andria Warmflash
Rosenbaum**
**Illustrated by: Barb
Bjornson**
Ages 2-4



By: Leslie Kimmelman
Illustrated by: Jaime Zollars
Ages 4-6



By: Linda Elovitz Marshall
Illustrated by: AG Jatkowski
Ages 4-8

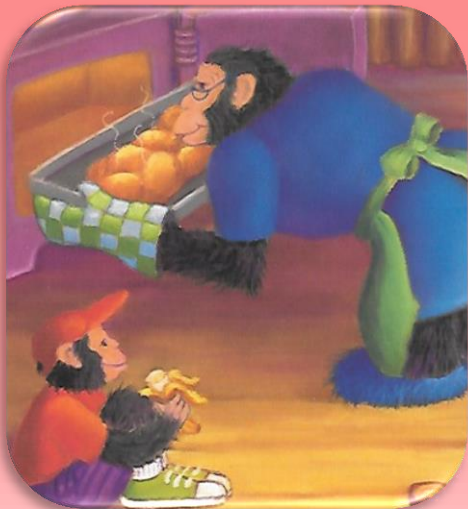
A Grandma/Grandpa Like Yours



Love Lessons

Celebrating holidays with grandparents enhances feelings of love and belonging

Grandparents show their love by teaching and passing down important family traditions



The Shabbat Puppy

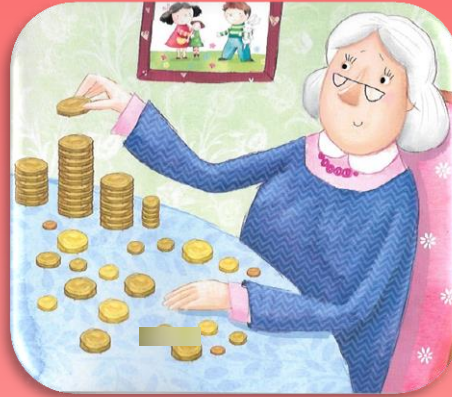


Love Lessons

Love includes spending time with and enjoying one another's company

Love involves listening to and respecting others' wishes/rules

Grandma Rose's Magic



Love Lessons

Sharing stories of the past is one way that grandparents show their love to their grandchildren.

Love involves doing many small favors without being asked and without expecting anything in return.

Discussion Questions

- How did the grandparents in this book show their love for their grandchildren? How did the grandchildren show their love for their grandparents?
- In *The Shabbat Puppy*, when Grampa told Noah that Mazel couldn't join them on their Shabbat walks, Noah didn't yell or cry or argue with Grampa. He listened to his Grampa and **honored** his wishes. When we honor someone, we talk nicely to that person, we listen to what they say, and we help them as much as we can. How do you honor your grandparents?
- The Torah, states that one way to show honor to our parents and grandparents is to stand when they enter the room. According to the Torah one reason why we stand when an older person comes into the room is because we know that someone who is older has lived for a very long time and has learned many important things. Do your grandparents know many different things? What are some of the lessons and facts that you've learned from your grandparents?



Activities for Love of Grandparents

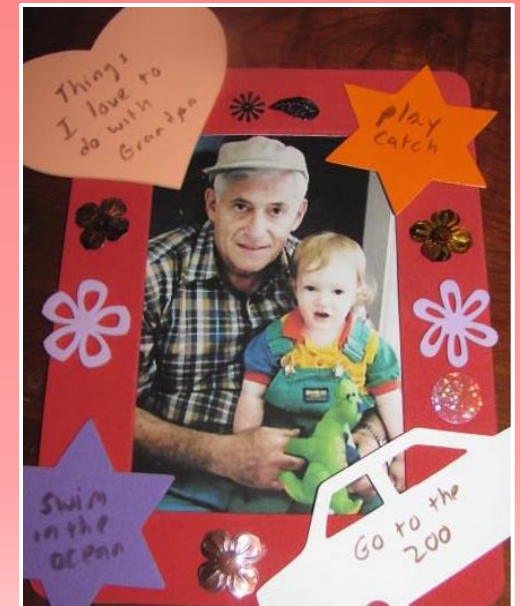
Grandchildren and grandparents can learn a lot about one another by sharing stories and memories and talking about their favorite and least favorite things. This project will give you and your grandparent a chance to create a lasting record of your thoughts and feelings.



When we see a crown on someone's head, we assume that the person wearing the crown is someone special. Right now, we'd like you to make a crown for one of your very special grandparents.



IMPORTANT PLACES		
	Grandparent's Place	Child's Place
Favorite Place to Visit (and why)		
A Place where I learned a lot (and an example of something that I learned there)		



Tu B'Av

This year's date: **July 31, 2015**

Historical Significance:

“There were no better (i.e. happier) days for the people of Israel than the Fifteenth of Av and Yom Kippur, since on these days the daughters of Israel/Jerusalem go out dressed in white and dance in the vineyards. What were they saying: Young man, consider whom you choose (to be your wife)?” (Ta’anit, Chapter 4)

- Marks end of 40 years in the Desert
- Falls at beginning of the grape season
- Day that God forgave the Jewish people for sin of the 10 spies
- Arrives a week after Tisha B'Av - represents end of sadness and mourning period over destruction of the Temple



Tu B'Av

Jewish Food Experience – Celebrating the Day of Love



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FREE Jewish books.
shalomdc.org/pjlibrary



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tradition.
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Sweethearts and Sweet Years

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JCC of Northern Virginia
Sunday, August 4, 2013
10:30 AM — 12:30 PM
8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA, 22031



Sponsored by the Jewish Food Experience and PJ Library of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Enjoy a morning with your family celebrating the Jewish day of love, Tu b'Av, the 15th day of the Hebrew month Av, and getting ready for a sweet new year with Rosh Hashanah, which begins on September 5. Join PJ Library and the Jewish Food Experience for a lively mix of storytelling, arts and crafts and cooking projects related to the two holidays for children ages 4 and up. Learn about Tu b'Av which is celebrated in Israel with cards, flowers, gifts including sweet foods, and music and dance festivals. Talk about Rosh Hashanah in your family and special foods associated with the holiday. A program fee of \$10 per family is requested (parents must accompany children) and includes all art and cooking supplies, snacks and take-home recipes and other treats.

Please register [here](#).

Sweethearts and Sweet Years: Bringing Home the Holidays

Tu b'Av

The 15th day of the Hebrew month Av celebrates love and was, in Biblical times, one of the happiest days of the year when young women in Jerusalem would dress in white and go out to the vineyards to dance and mingle with their male peers in hopes of finding their matches. Tu b'Av has become the Jewish day of love, and today in Israel, people celebrate and show love and affection by giving each other cards, flowers, sweets and other gifts and going to dance and music festivals. The day also marks the beginning of the High Holiday season and is the first day on which Rosh Hashanah greetings are shared.

Possible Dates for Love Programs 2015-2016

- Global Day of Jewish Learning:
Sunday, November 15, 2015
Love, Devotion, Desire, Deception
- Mother's Day:
Sunday, May 3, 2016
- Father's Day:
Sunday June 21, 2015
Sunday, June 19, 2016
- Grandparents' Day:
Sunday, September 13, 2015

