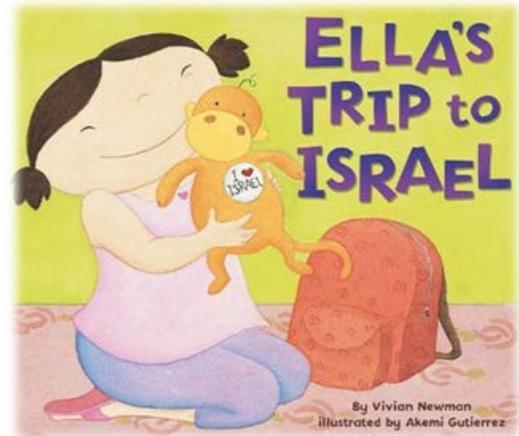


## Ella's Trip to Israel

By Vivian Newman

### Program Focus

Age group: Ages 2-6  
Time frame: 60 minutes  
Central value: Strengthening connections to Israel



### Synopsis

Providing families with a fun, gentle introduction to the beauty and vibrancy of Israel, *Ella's Trip to Israel* recounts the adventures and mishaps of three year old Ella and her beloved stuffed monkey Koofi as they travel throughout Israel. Somehow, no matter where Ella and her family journey, Koofi's fur seems to acquire a small memento of their most recent expedition: a drop of tehina here, a dollop of Dead Sea mud there, a rip on the tail, a squirt of fresh milk on the face. Fortunately, several of Ella's new Israeli acquaintances teach her and her family a new way to cope with minor mishaps. "Eyn Ba-aya" ("No problem"), they chant as they help clean and repair the slightly battered Koofi. Koofi returns from Israel looking exceptionally travel-worn, but Ella and her family realize "Eyn Baaya!" His many spots and stains will help them recall every moment of their memorable trip to Israel.

### Goals

A major goal of this program is to strengthen families' feelings of connection and attachment to Israel. Each program activity is designed to help families experience the rich beauty and diversity of the land, people, and culture of Israel. During the course of the program, families will visit several somewhat realistic, "pretend" sites in Israel (including the kotel, a kibbutz, and possibly a restaurant). At each site, families will perform a simple activity or craft and learn some basic Hebrew sayings and expressions.

### Submitted by

Vivian Newman- [Vivian@hgf.org](mailto:Vivian@hgf.org)

# Plan in advance

Please select only one or two activities. Do not plan on completing all of these activities.

Israel Ministry of Tourism  
800 Second Avenue-16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212 499-5650  
[www.goisrael.com](http://www.goisrael.com)

## Prepare Israel Placemats

### Advanced Preparations

- Cut out photos of many different sites in Israel
  - Photos can be obtained by requesting posters and travel brochures from the Israeli Ministry of Tourism
  - Additional photos can be obtained from the internet



### Materials Needed

- Photos of Israel (see above)
- Glue sticks
- Paper (8 x 11 in.)
- Clear plastic folders or photo sleeves (These will provide a quick way of “laminating” and protecting the placemat. If your group meets on a regular basis, and you have access to a laminating machine, you can laminate the placemats and return them the next time you meet).
- Optional:
  - Pictures of Koofi the monkey (see end of document)
  - Stickers (Israeli flags, Jewish stars, doves, olive branches, etc.)
  - Ink pads and rubber stamps (Israeli flags, outlines of Jerusalem, Jewish stars, etc.)

## Prepare Sun Visors

### Advanced Preparations

- Purchase foam visors from a craft store or cut visor shapes from craft foam
- Punch a small hole in each side of the visor
- Attach a piece of elastic or elastic thread to the visor



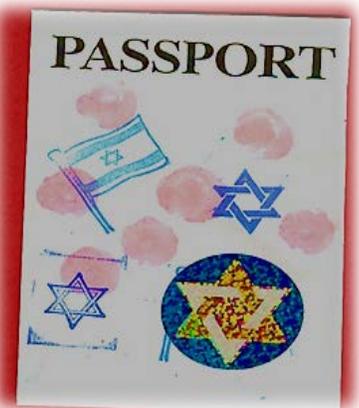
### Materials Needed

- Foam visors with elastic attached (see above)
- Bingo markers/dot paints
- Stencils for creating designs (optional)

## Prepare Passports

### Materials Needed

- Passport template (see end of document)
- Pens, markers
- Stickers, rubber stamps, ink pads (optional)



## Prepare a Kotel Replica

### Materials Needed

- Tri-fold poster board
- Pieces of paper
- Markers, pens, scissors

### Advanced Preparations

- Using a marker, draw bricks on the board.
- Add green plants.
- Cut slits in the board where notes can be easily inserted



## Prepare Milking Cows

Choose the activit/ies that you will offer at your kibbutz and prepare accordingly.

### Materials Needed

- Poster board
- Markers
- Access to a laminating machine or a clear plastic for covering the cow
- Thin rubber gloves
- Water
- Straight pin for poking holes in the glove
- Metal or plastic bucket
- Folding chair
- Duct tape

### Instructions

- Draw a picture of a cow on a poster board
- Cut out the cow image
- Laminate the cow or cover in plastic (to make the cow somewhat waterproof)
- Fill plastic glove with water
- Close the glove by tying a knot at the wrist opening
- Using a pin, poke a hole or 2 in the end of each glove finger
- Tape glove/udder to the backside of the cow, so that the udder hangs underneath the cow's belly
- Tape the cow to the back of a folding chair
- Place bucket below the cow's udder

If you are expecting a large crowd, you will need to prepare several cows. Remember to prepare extra gloves, since you may need to tape on new udders to replace damaged/empty ones.



## Prepare Orange Trees

### Materials Needed

- Poster board
- Orange craft foam
- Paint or green and brown construction paper
- Velcro and glue stick
- Duct tape or masking tape
- Brown paper bags or small baskets

### Advanced Preparations

- Draw a picture of a tree on poster board (for a large crowd, plan on making several trees).
- Paint the tree or cover with green and brown construction paper
- Using the orange craft foam, cut out orange circles
- Attach Velcro (tooth side showing) to the back of each orange
- Attach matching pieces (smoother, fuzzy side showing) of Velcro to the tree
- Matching up the Velcro, attach oranges to trees
- Tape orange tree/poster boards securely to wall

## Prepare Eggs

### Materials Needed

- 1-3 dozen hard boiled eggs
- Brown Paper Bags or Empty Egg Cartons

### Advanced Preparations

- Hide in somewhat visible locations in one corner/area of the room

## Prepare Israeli Snacks

### Materials Needed

- Small plates, napkins, plastic spoons
- Cups, mango juice
- Pita, cut into small triangles or cut in quarters
- Hummus and Tehina (if available)
- Optional: Olives, Pickles, Grapes, Dates, and Figs

### Advanced preparations

- Cut pieces of pita, arrange in a large bowl or place on a plate.
- Fill bowls with hummus (fill additional bowls with tehina if available).
- Fill and display bowls of other types of Israeli foods.
- Arrange a stack of plates, spoons and napkins at one end of the table.
- Prefill cups with mango juice.
- Set up additional tables or arrange cloths on the floor where families can sit as they eat their food.



# Introduce with activities

## Make Israel Placemats

### Intro Words

Today, in our book, we are going to meet a little girl named Ella and her stuffed monkey, Koofi, who fly on an airplane to a special country called Israel. Israel is a very beautiful country where many Jewish people live. On this table are pictures of some of the many beautiful places in Israel. We also have pictures of Ella's monkey Koofi, stickers and stamps of airplanes, Israeli flags, and other symbols which one can find all over Israel. We'd like you to use these materials to create a special placemat which you can use at home. The placemat will help you remember our book and think about Israel whenever you eat a meal.



### Directions

1. Using glue sticks, attach photos of your choice to your paper.
2. Decorate paper using any additional materials (stickers, stamps, etc.)
3. When placemat is finished, place it in a clear plastic folder or photo-sleeve

## Make Sun Visors

### Intro Words

Israel is a little different from the place/country where we live. During the summer in Israel, it never rains. Every day of the summer is sunny and hot. Many people in Israel wear hats to protect their heads and eyes from the sun. Right now, we're going to make a type of hat which you could wear in Israel in the summertime. Later today, we're going to pretend to visit Israel. When we go on our imaginary trip, you may want to wear your hat in order to keep the sun out of your eyes.



### Directions

1. Using paints/bingo markers, decorate visors by making colorful dots with the paints.
2. To create a design using stencils, place stencil on top of a blank/empty area of the visor. Fill entire stencil space with dots. Lift up stencil to view completed design.

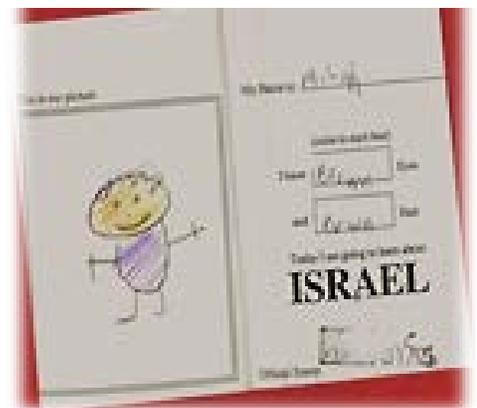
## Make Passports

### Intro Words

Later today, we're going to pretend to fly on an airplane to Israel. Because Israel is very far away, we often need to show a special booklet, called a passport, before we can board the plane. A passport contains our picture and tells a little about who we are. Right now, we'd like you to make a passport.

### Directions

1. Fold passport template into quarters to create a booklet.
2. Decorate front of passport with stickers, stamps, etc.
3. Open passport, use a marker to draw a picture of your face.
4. Fill in any additional information.



# Read the story

## Hints for Sharing the Book

Consider using props such as a stuffed monkey and a toy airplane to introduce the book.

### Possible Introductory Remarks

*Ella's Trip to Israel is about a girl named Ella who travels with her parents and her favorite stuffed animal to Israel. Her stuffed animal is named Koofi. Do you know what kind of animal Koofi is? (Hold up monkey). That's right, he is a monkey. Israel, the country to which Ella and Koofi are travelling, is very far away. How do you think they'll get to Israel? (Hold up airplane). That's right; they'll fly on an airplane. Israel is a place where many Jewish people live. In Israel, they speak a special language called Hebrew. Do you know any words in Hebrew? Koofi's name is actually a Hebrew name. It comes from the Hebrew name for monkey-Kof. As we read the book, we'll learn several new Hebrew words.*

### Summarize the plot and teach the phrase "Eyn Baaya" before reading

*As Koofi travels throughout Israel he insists on doing whatever Ella does. If Ella drinks mango juice, then Koofi tries some too. If Ella covers herself with Dead Sea mud, then Koofi does the same. Unfortunately, Ella and Koofi soon learn that juice and mud and all sorts of other Israeli treasure do not wash off of Koofi as easily as they wash off of Ella. At the beginning of the book, Ella and her parents learn some special Hebrew words to say whenever Koofi becomes sticky or dirty or runs into some other type of problem. "En Baaya" No problem, they say as they try to clean Koofi after one of his little accidents. Can you say "En Baaya"? Excellent! Unfortunately, I seem to have a little trouble remembering that phrase, so can you help me say "En Baaya" whenever something drippy or sticky lands on Koofi?*

# Follow Up activities and resources

## Enjoy the Flight

### Intro Words

*Did Ella and Koofi enjoy visiting Israel? They went to so many different places. Which place did you like the best? Would you like to visit Israel? Right now, we're going to go on a pretend trip to Israel. Shall we pretend to pack our suitcases? What do you think we should take with us on our trip? (If passports were made as an introductory activity, ask children to display them. Optional: Stamp each passport with a rubber stamp.)*

*\*Note: Many young children become frightened when they hear that they'll be going on an unexpected trip for which they have not been adequately prepared. It is therefore important to continually reassure the children that this is only a pretend trip, requiring only an imaginary airplane.*

## Possible In-Flight Activities

- Enjoy playing the role of pilot: wear a pilot's cap or an El Al pin/emblem etc.
- Instruct children to extend their arms and pretend to fly.
- Consider distributing snacks on the flight (pretzels or Israeli snack food such as bamba or beezlie in baggies, mango juice, etc.)
- Show a brief in-flight movie: (e.g. segment from the new or old Shalom Sesame DVD)
- Instruct passengers to clap and sing *Haveinu Shalom Aleichem* or *Am Yisroael Chai* as the plane touches ground in Israel (Israeli music will lend a nice finishing touch to the flight).
- Once you arrive in Israel, the children and families attending your program will have the opportunity to "visit" a number of sites in Israel.



## Adaptations

### Large Group

It's probably best to have a number of sites set up, with each site being staffed by 1 or 2 volunteers. Families can explore the sites individually, moving at their own pace. The volunteer at the site will be in charge of greeting families and overseeing the site activities.

### Small Group

With a small group and a small staff (i.e. a one person), the staff person can walk or hike with the group, bringing them from one station to the next. After everyone who has completed the activity, the staff person can lead families to the next site.

## Visit the Kotel

### Intro Words

*Do you remember the first place which Ella and her family visited in Israel? It was a special wall called the Kotel. The Kotel is a very, very old wall. It once surrounded the Temple, a famous synagogue in ancient Israel. What did Ella and her mom do at the Kotel? (Show picture from book). Ella and her mother put a note in the wall just like hundreds of other visitors do when they visit this wall. I have a pretend Kotel here, which we can visit as our first tourist site in Israel. Like Ella, you can write a note or a prayer on a piece of paper and slip it into one of the cracks in the Kotel. There are many different kinds of notes or prayers which people write at the Kotel. Sometimes they write a note saying "Thank you" for some of the things which make them happy ("Thank you for my family" or "Thank you for the sunshine"). Sometimes, people write notes in which they ask for something, such as "I hope that I will soon learn how to ride a bike" or "Please help me meet many friends at my new school." Sometimes people like to address their notes to G-d, and sometimes they prefer to write more general notes. Right now, I'm going to pass out pieces of paper and pens. An adult can help you write and fold your note, and then you can come up and put your note into the Kotel.*

## Milk Cows

### Intro Words

*Ella and her family also visited a kibbutz while they were in Israel. Many kibbutzim look just like farms. Do you remember what Ella and her family did on the Kibbutz? Right now, we're going to visit a kibbutz too. Are you ready to do some farm work on our kibbutz?*

### Directions

1. To milk the cow, squeeze/pull the udder.
2. See if you can see or hear the milk (which is really water) as it fills the bottom of the pail.



## Pick Oranges

### Directions

1. Gently remove oranges from the trees.
2. Place picked oranges in bags/ baskets.
3. When you have finished picking oranges, hang the oranges back on the tree so that others will be able to pick oranges as well.

## Gather Eggs

### Directions

1. Find as many hidden eggs as you can.
2. Place each egg gently in your egg carton or bag.
3. When you have finished gathering eggs, remove each egg from your container and find a new hiding spot for it (we want others to be able to enjoy gathering eggs as well).



## Eat Israeli Snacks

### Directions

1. Fill your plate with some Israeli foods.
2. Be sure to take a cup of mango juice as well.
3. Find a place to sit and enjoy your food. *Bete avon* (Hebrew for "eat with a good appetite").

# Resources for parents, teachers, families

## Nurturing the Family

After the program, contact the families, thanking them for coming. If possible, e-mail one or two photos which you may have taken at the program.

Send a few Israel coloring page links to families

1. [akhlah.com](http://akhlah.com): Israeli Seal
2. [apples4theteacher.com](http://apples4theteacher.com): Flag of Israel
3. [apples4theteacher.com](http://apples4theteacher.com): Map of Israel
4. [coloringcastle.com](http://coloringcastle.com): Israeli Flag
5. [israelemb.org](http://israelemb.org): Israeli Flag
6. [kidscolorpages.com](http://kidscolorpages.com): Funny Israeli Flag Man
7. [torahtots.com](http://torahtots.com): Aleph Bet Hebrew Letters

If families did not make placemats at your event, suggest this as an activity to try at home. Send instructions and perhaps a few photos of Israel, so that families can easily assemble the placemats at home.

Provide families with family-friendly links for learning and exploring more about Israel. Here's a link to a site which displays many fun videos and interesting articles about Israel.

<http://www.israel21c.org>

A link to materials on Israel specifically designed for kindergarten and preschool aged children:

[www.jlandonline.com](http://www.jlandonline.com)

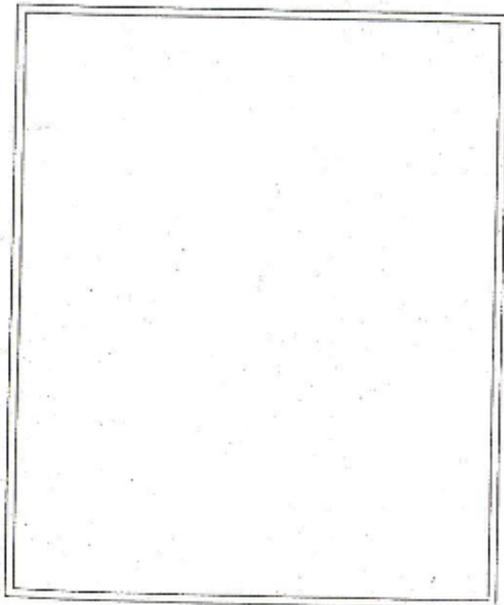
A link to fascinating information and interactive experiences with Ancient Jerusalem:

[www.cityof david.org.il](http://www.cityof david.org.il)



# PASSPORT

This is my picture:



My Name is: \_\_\_\_\_

(color in each box)

I have  Eyes

and  Hair

Today I am going to learn about

# ISRAEL

Official Stamp