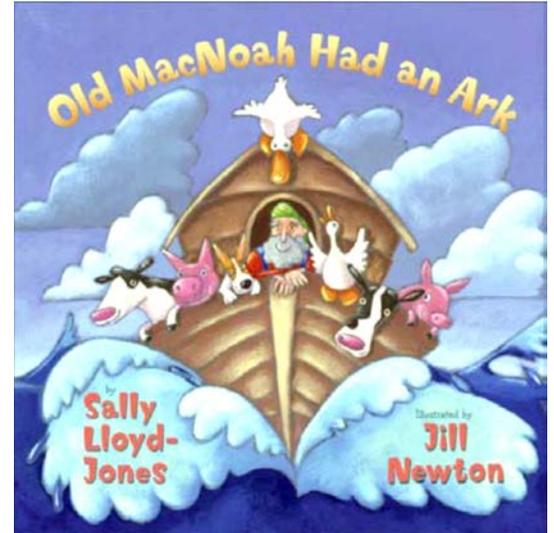


## Old MacNoah Had an Ark

By Sally Lloyd-Jones

### Program Focus

Age group: Ages 1-3  
 Time frame: 45-60 minutes  
 Central value: Kindness (*Chesed*), not causing pain to animals (*Tzaar Ba'alay Chayim*)



### Synopsis

Noah has built an ark and herded all the animals on board. The rain is falling fast on Noah, and the animals refuse to stay quiet! Now what is he to do with these hungry, smelly, slip-sliding creatures? With an oopsie-daisy! here and a burp! slurp! there, everyone files into Old MacNoah's ark (two by two, of course) to escape the rising waters. Ee-i-Ee-i-O!

### Goals

- Familiarize or reacquaint families with the story of Noah's Ark
- For young children to have fun exploring the story of Noah's ark using all of their senses
- For parents to discover new ways of bringing traditional Bible stories to life
- To encourage families to think about ways of incorporating kindness to animals into their daily routines

### Submitted by

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

# Plan in advance

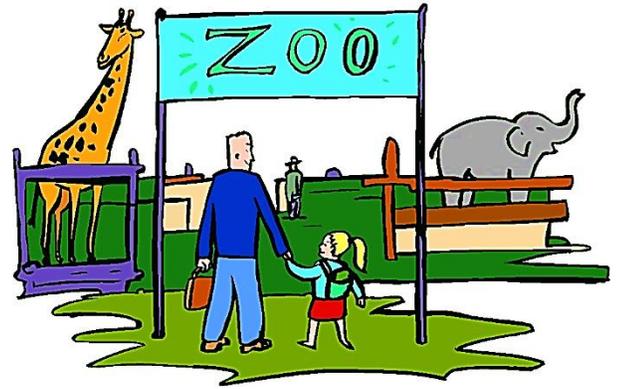
## Prepare the Location

### Hold the program at a local zoo

After the story reading, arrange for a zoo-keeper to bring out several animals. The zoo keeper can describe a few characteristics of the animal and discuss how those who work at the zoo take care of the animals.

### Bring the zoo to you

Many zoos have travelling zoo shows or exhibits which can come right to you. Following the reading of Old MacNoah, ask the traveling zoo keeper to bring out a number of animals and explain the specific techniques that are used to care for each animal.



## Prepare Noah's Ark Rain Collage

### Materials

- Popsicle sticks or large wooden toothpicks
- Blue food coloring
- Plastic or paper bowls
- Precut pictures of Noah's Ark
- Animal stickers or animal stamps and ink pads
- Pre-cut circles of paper (approximately 3 inches in diameter)
- Glue-sticks
- Large sheets of white construction paper

### Advanced Preparations

Assemble 3D paper arks:

1. Find 2 identical pictures of Noah's ark (see attached of use Google images)
2. Using scissors, cut one of the arks in half, separating the top half of the ark from the bottom half.
3. Staple the cut, bottom half of the ark onto the full, uncut picture of the ark, creating an ark with a built-in pocket.
4. Fill bowls with blue food coloring diluted in water (15 drops of coloring to 1 cup of water)



## Prepare Animal Search Game

### Advanced Preparations

1. Hide pictures of animals throughout the room. Pictures should be hidden in fairly obvious places, and should be arranged in pairs (For example, hide 2 cows-one standing next to the other- on top of a table. Hide 2 pigs on a chair, etc.)

## Prepare Bird Feeders

### Materials Needed

- Pipe cleaners with a knot tied at one end
- Cheerios
- Paper or plastic bowls filled with cheerios
- Optional:
  - Carrots
  - Small broom
  - Animal/hair brush
  - Plastic bin filled with soapy water and a sponge
  - (Hold up props to discuss the way in which Noah cared for the animals).



## Prepare Edible Arks

### Materials / Advance Preparations

- Pita bread – cut in half
- Apple butter or fruit spread (or canned vanilla frosting) – in bowls so every 2-4 children have their own materials
- Animal crackers – in bowls
- Spoons, bowls, plates, napkins

# Introduce with activities

## Create a Noah's Ark Rain Collage

### Introduction

Today we are going to read a story about a man named Noah who lived a long, long time ago. When Noah heard that there was going to be a big rain storm which would last for many, many days, he built a very special kind of boat called an ark. Noah made his ark very large so that many animals could fit inside and stay warm and dry while it rained outside. Before we read our book, we're going to make a type of picture, called a collage, of Noah's ark. You will start your picture by painting rain. Today, I'm going to show you a funny way to paint rain, using a toothbrush and a Popsicle stick. Once your paper is covered with rain, you'll glue on Noah's ark and then fill that ark with lots and lots of animals. The ark that you're making today has a special pocket in it, so that you will be able to bring the animals inside and outside of the ark just as Noah did. Are you ready to build an ark just like Noah's?



### Directions

1. Demonstrate how to paint rain: Dip toothbrush into bowl of blue water. Hold brush over white paper, with bristles facing down towards the paper. Rub a popsicle stick or toothpick against the bristles of the toothbrush, thereby gently splattering rain drops on paper.
2. Once paper is sufficiently covered with "rain drops," ask parents to help children use a glue stick to attach the ark to the rain splattered paper.
3. Encourage children to fill pre-cut circles with animal stickers
4. Demonstrate how to slip animal-covered circles into the ark.

### Adaptations for Group Size and Age

#### Very Young Children

Very young children are prone to spilling. Instead of bowls of water, simply hand them pre-dipped toothbrushes. As an additional accommodation, have adult hold the toothbrush while child moves the stick across the bristles. To simplify further, pre-glue ark to construction paper, or ask children to splatter rain drops over a xeroxed picture of an ark. Allow children to attach animal stickers.



#### Older Children

Encourage older children to search and find matching animal sticker pairs, and to place 2 stickers of the same animal on each white circle. (Explain to the children that the animals went onto the ark marching in 2 by 2). They may also enjoy placing a piece of sandpaper under the picture of the ark and then coloring the ark before attaching it to their collage. The sandpaper will help give the ark a woody, grainy appearance.



#### Small Groups

A small group may enjoy working on a large, group mural rather than on individual pictures.

## Search for Animals

### Introduction

*Before we open our book and read about Noah, I'd like to play a short game in which you will be Noah's helper. Do you think that you can help Noah fill his ark with animals? Does everyone know about Noah? (Show a picture of Noah). Noah was a man who built a very special type of boat called an ark. Noah made his ark very large so that many animals could come aboard and stay warm, safe, and dry during a great big rain storm. Do you know that when Noah called the animals to the ark, he asked the animals to march aboard in pairs? He wanted more than just one cat to come aboard; he asked for 2 of every kind of animal. So when he said "I need cats" to come on the ark, he wanted 2 cats- a boy cat and a girl cat- to march aboard the ark.*



Hold up 2 cats and place them into the ark. Demonstrate the concept of pairs using several more animal pictures.

### Directions

*Can you help Noah find pairs of animals to bring onto the ark? I've hidden pairs of animals all around the room. Your job is to find 2 pictures of the same animal and bring them to the ark. Ready everyone? Please look around and bring Noah his animals.*

1. Reader holds up picture of Noah and shouts, "Animals. I need animals to come onto my ark."
2. Thank the children for helping Noah find the animals. Place all the animals aboard the cardboard ark.

*Now let's open our book and see what happened to Noah and his animals once they were on the ark.*

### Adaptations for Location and Group Age

#### Older Children

Older children may enjoy searching for and finding their own pairs of animals rather than hiding the animals in pairs. Hide only one of each animal. (Hold onto the second animal). Hand each child a picture of an animal and ask them to search for the animal's partner. *Here is one duck, but there is another duck hiding somewhere in this room. Can you find the other duck and then put the matching pair of ducks to the ark?*

#### Zoo Location

Children and parents will go from animal cage to animal cage-searching for paper cut outs of animals (These can be taped to the display signs which stand next to each cage). Upon finding a pair of animals, the family will bring their paper animals to the cardboard ark, and then head out in search of another pair.

# Read the story

## Props

- Large 3D cardboard ark (with built-in pocket)
- Pictures of animals (try to have at least 2 pictures of every animal discussed in the book- cows, ducks, pigs, etc.)
- Animal pictures can be attached to card-stock and laminated
- Picture of a Noah figure



## Encourage Participation

Before reading/singing each page, the reader should hold up the appropriate prop and ask the children to shout out the name of the prop and the sound that it makes. *On his farm, he had a.... What's this? What sound does this animal make?*

The reader may also want to create hand motions to go along with each page. (Example- Make a fist with hand and bang on the floor. Cow-slowly sways head from side to side and call out "Moo". Duck pretends to flap wings. Pig makes snorting and oinking sounds. Rain-flutter fingers up and down, etc.)



# Follow Up activities and resources

## Make Bird Feeders

### Introduction

*What do you think Noah needed to do while he was on the ark with all of those animals? Did he need to feed the animals? What kind of foods do you think those animals ate? (Hay, leaves, grass, carrots, etc.) How else did Noah take care of the animals while they were on the ark? Did he need to clean up after the animals? Did he need to give them baths and brush their hair?*

Noah took very good care of those animals on his ark. Noah taught us that every animal is important, and that it is our job to take care of all the animals in the world. In Judaism, we say that taking care of animals is a mitzvah. It's a good deed that we need to try to do at all times. The mitzvah of taking care of animals has a special name, called-tzaar ba'alay chayim. So, let me ask you: Do you know how to take care of animals? Does anyone have a dog or a cat at home? Do you help give them their food? Do you ever brush their fur or give them a bath? Even if you don't own a pet, you can still help take care of animals. Have you ever seen birds in your backyard? What do those birds eat? Where do they get their food from?

*Did you know that we can help birds by leaving food outdoors for them? Today we're going to make a special snack for the birds. We're going to give them a string/pipe cleaner full of cheerios. You can bring this string of cheerios home and find a tree or a fence to hang it from. When you hang your cheerios up in the yard, you will be doing the mitzvah of tzaar ba'alay chayim. You will be helping the birds and making sure that they have enough food to eat.*

### Directions

1. Encourage children to string cheerios onto pipe cleaners.



## Make Edible Arks

### Introduction

*In addition to making food for the birds, we should probably make some food for ourselves. Today, we're going to make a Noah's ark that we can eat.*

### Directions

1. Have children dip their spoon into the bowl of frosting
2. Open pita bread and spread filling inside
3. Place animal crackers inside pita
4. Eat and enjoy



# Resources for parents, teachers, families

## Nurturing the Family

Distribute hand-outs at the end of the program or send the hand-outs to families via e-mail.

The handout should include suggestions for ways that families can continue to help animals on a daily basis. Suggestions for helping animals may include:

1. Build a bird bath or bird feeder for the yard.
2. Make a "Be Kind to Animals" Bag. Children can decorate a large paper bag with stickers and markers. Whenever a family member is out shopping, he/she should try to buy at least one can of dog or cat food (even if the family does not own a pet). When the family returns from the store, they can place the canned food item in their "Be Kind to Animals" Bag. When the bag is full of animal supplies, it can be donated to a local animal shelter.
3. Plant a Butterfly Garden

The following websites contain additional ideas and directions for how families can incorporate the value of kindness to animals into their daily lives:

### PJ Library Blog

- [Why Do Children Love Animals?](#)
- [Nurturing Compassion for Animals](#)
- [Children's Books about Noah](#)
- [Explore Jewish Farming](#)

### Humane Society

[www.chittendenhumane.org](http://www.chittendenhumane.org)

### Instructions for making Bird Feeders and Bird Baths

<http://home.howstuffworks.com/bird-feeders4.htm>

### Noah Ark Songs

[http://www.jacquelinejules.com/noah\\_songs.htm](http://www.jacquelinejules.com/noah_songs.htm)

### Noah's Ark Crafts and Activities for Kids

[http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible\\_themes\\_noah.html](http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_noah.html)

