



GOES to SCHOOL

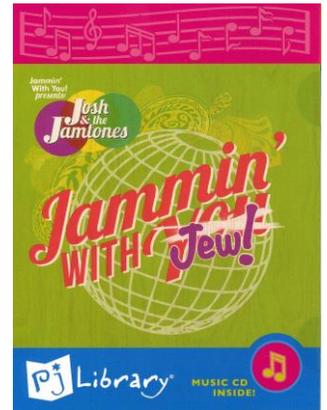
Listen to the PJ Library Musical CD

Jammin' with Jew! (4's)

By Josh and the Jamtones

Synopsis

This CD focuses on learning Hebrew with a funky beat. The songs incorporate simple prayers and Jewish concepts such as *shalom* (peace) and giving thanks.



Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

100 Blessings a day - *Me-ah b'ra-chot* - מֵאָה בְּרָכוֹת

Hebrew - *Iv-rit* - עִבְרִית

Peace - *Sha-lom* - שְׁלוֹם

100 Blessings – meah berakhot. Jewish tradition places great value on gratitude. *Modeh Ani* (I give thanks) is the first prayer of the morning. The Talmudic sage Rabbi Meir said, "A person is obliged to recite 100 blessings every day" (Menachot 43b). What would life be like if one hundred times every day we paused for moments of gratitude? The word blessing or *bracha*, is said to stem from the word *breicha*, or spring. Just as a spring continuously bubbles with water, the world perpetually gives us gifts for which we are thankful.

Hebrew – Ivrit. Evidence of written Hebrew has been found dating back to the tenth century BCE. Classical Hebrew is the primary language of the Torah and many Jewish prayers, and is therefore known as *Lashon Hakodesh*, or the Holy Tongue. For centuries Hebrew was only spoken in prayer or study. In the 1880's Eliezer Ben-Yehuda changed that. Ben-Yehuda, a Torah scholar and ardent Zionist, believed the revitalization of Hebrew as a modern language could unite Jews all over the world. He is credited with the birth of modern Hebrew, which is a symbol of Jewish identity throughout the world.

Peace – Shalom. It is no coincidence that the Hebrew word shalom translates to hello, goodbye and peace. The ancient rabbis felt that positive human relationships pave the path to non-violent living. *Pirkei Avot*, a collection of rabbinic sayings often translated as Ethics of our Ancestors, states: “Be first to greet every person” (4:20). Jewish tradition teaches we should greet our fellow humans without judgment. This concept of open mindedness leads to peace in the classroom, the community, and hopefully the world.

Imagine using music to convey Jewish values.

**How will you incorporate music into classroom routines?
How will families be involved?**

In the Classroom / Centers

- ✧ **100 Blessings:** Start your **morning meeting** with the “*Modeh Ani*” prayer. Encourage your students (and their families) to share the things in life for which they are grateful. The “*Bar’chu*” might make a rocking addition to your **service**. Consider using “The Creation Song” to emphasize the beauty of outdoors while you are at the **playground**.
- ✧ **Hebrew:** Play “I Know ‘Em” while you work with Hebrew stencils in your **art center**, or play with Hebrew **puzzles**.
- ✧ **Peace:** *Sha-la-lom* can be the theme song of your efforts in classroom **conflict resolution**. Play the song before you discuss an ethical dilemma, or while you wait for flared tempers to calm down.
- ✧ **Hints:** Play songs one at a time instead of letting the CD play in its entirety as background music. This way you can focus on the value or activity in each song. Learn one Hebrew word each week, and find ways to use this word throughout the day every day. Play one song on repeat mode (such as *Artik Menta*) to dance away a rainy day.



Share your stories and experiences with everyone.

**What happened?
How can the learning go deeper?**

Tell us a story... about musical inspiration

There are so many ways that music enhances the early childhood experience. Let us know how you used the music in this CD. Did one tune become your class theme song? Did you use a melody to inspire an art project? Perhaps you incorporated a song into your morning prayer ritual.

Please share with all of us in our next eNewsletter! PJGtS@hgf.org

