



THE SHALOM BOOK

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For such a little word, “shalom” packs in a lot of meaning – hello, goodbye, and peace. This simple, dynamic board book explores the many expressions of shalom.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

For a relatively small word, *shalom* packs a lot of meaning. The three definitions of shalom are "hello," "goodbye," and "peace." Consequently, if you are in a Hebrew-speaking place, you are likely to hear "shalom" more often than just about any other word or phrase.

It's not just a coincidence that this single word conveys all these meanings. Language holds keys to a culture's values and norms. It is meaningful that a Hebrew greeting includes an implicit desire for peace. Hebrew is not the only language that does this; many cultures attempt to start new relationships on the right foot in this way. These ideas may be over a young child's head, but even toddlers respond to a friendly smile, outstretched arms, and a loving manner. In a sense, that is what the word shalom — in all its meanings — conveys.

Hearing "shalom" spoken aloud in everyday conversation is fairly recent phenomenon. For centuries, Hebrew was only used in study and prayer; Israeli pioneers, led by lexicographer Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, helped bring it back as a living language. Now the word shalom is heard all day, every day, all over Israel — and beyond. Go online to learn more about the history of the Hebrew language and its renewal. Shalom!

