



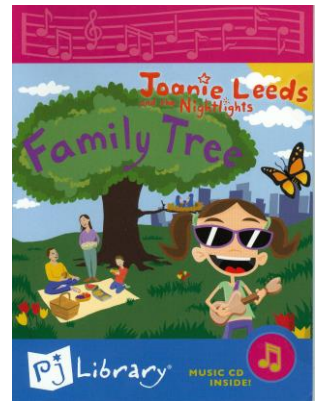
Listen to the PJ Library Musical CD

Family Tree (3s)

By Joanie Leeds and the Nightlights

Synopsis

This CD has easy-to-learn songs with beautiful melodies that will capture the hearts and imagination of young children. The concepts of love and *Tikkun Olam* (caring for the Earth) are presented in ways sure to encourage a child's sense of belonging to the community and booster self-confidence.



Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Repairing the world - *Ti-kun o-lam* - תְּקוּן עוֹלָם

Cheerfulness - *Se-ver pa-nim ya-fot* - סֵבֵר פְּנִים יְפוֹת

Loving others - *Ve-a-hav-tale-rei-a-chaka-mo-cha* - וְאָהַבְתָּה לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ

Repairing the world / *Tikkun olam*. The concept of Repairing the World teaches us to take responsibility in preserving the beauty and sustainability of our world. An ancient commentary on the Bible's book of Ecclesiastes puts it eloquently: "Consider that [the world was created for humankind], and do not corrupt or desolate my world; for if you corrupt it, there will be no one to set it right after you" (*Kohelet Rabbah* 1, on 7:13).

Cheerfulness / *Sever panim yafot*. The classic Jewish text, *Ethics of Our Ancestors*, says: "Greet people with a cheerful face (*Pirkei Avot* 1:15). Jewish sages taught that we should maintain a pleasant demeanor to indicate we care about others. Is it hypocritical to smile when we are cranky? Ancient rabbis and modern researchers have found that when we "put on a happy face" we elevate our own mood.

Loving others / Ve-ahavta lerei'acha kamocha. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18) is a core Jewish value. There is an often-told Talmudic story about the famous sage, Hillel. A noted trouble-maker knocked on Hillel’s door and challenged him to teach the entire Torah while standing on one foot. Hillel responded, “What is hateful to yourself do not do to your neighbor. That is the entire Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it” (Shabbat 31a). The idea of loving one’s neighbor is the basis for many mitzvot and acts of kindness. This teaching, expressed in a variety of ways and often referred to as The Golden Rule, is an ethical tenet in almost every religion.

Imagine using music to convey Jewish values.

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

In the Classroom / Centers

- ☆ **Tikkun olam/repairing the world:** “I Wanna Be Green” is the ideal song to play during **clean-up time**. Challenge your group to finish the job before the song ends. Make a game of categorizing recyclables and play “Tikkun Olam” as you **sort objects**.
- ☆ **Sever panim yafot/cheerfulness:** Get up and dance during **large motor skills time**. You have to be cheerful when you exercise to “Put a Smile on Your Face” or “Shalom, Shalom.” “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad/Rakevet” may inspire some new **dramatic play** or **block structures**.
- ☆ **Ve-ahavta lerei'acha kamocha /loving others:** “You Are My Sunshine” would fit nicely with “Modeh Ani” for a **morning prayer service**. You might share “Give Me a Hug” with families to add to their evening *Shema* and bedtime rituals.
- ☆ **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 *Family Tree*, *My Butterfly* or *Hey Little Sun*) during **rest time** or **art**.



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

