

A Note from PJ Goes to School

Find out how your child is exploring Jewish values through PJ Library books



Featured book and Jewish values

Hanukkah Cookies with Sprinkles

By David A. Adler

Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

Published by Apples and Honey Press



When Sara sees an old man scavenging through the trash in search of food, she wonders how she can help. She begins leaving him gifts of food. When Sara discovers that the man (Mr. Berger) attends their synagogue, she and her mother invite him to their home for a Hanukkah meal, where Sara is delighted to learn that Mr. Berger is a talented juggler who is eager to share his skills with his new friend.

Values

Righteous Giving - *Tz'da-kah* - תְּצַדִּיק the giving of money, food, clothing or other essential items to those in need.

Compassion- *Ra-cha-mim* - רַחֲמִים treating others with love, concern, empathy and a deep sense of responsibility.

What to talk about at home

- What might be some challenges that come from not having enough money to support yourself?
- What has our family done, and what new actions could we take to help those who are homeless or hungry?
- Can we think of a new group, cause, or organization that our family could help through the gift of tzedakah?



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What else you can do

- Take a compassion stroll through your neighborhood. As you walk past your neighbors' homes, think of a small gift or act you could do to brighten their day. How many small, compassionate gifts can you give in a week?
- Empathy, the ability to understand the feelings of others, is often the first step to compassion. Study the facial expressions of individuals in books, newspapers, or magazines. How many different emotions can your family identify?

More PJ library books about tzedakah and compassion

[*How Dalia Put a Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box*](#) by Linda Heller

[*Bagels From Benny*](#) by Aubrey Davis

[*Gracie's Night*](#) by Lynn Taylor Gordon