



26 Big Things Small Hands Do By Coleen Paratore

26 Big Things Small Hands Do conveys many significant Jewish teachings. The concept of *tikkun olam*, the Hebrew term for “repairing the world,” is one of the most important ethical injunctions in Jewish thought. We are taught that as human beings, we have a responsibility to make the world a better place.

Through the letters of the alphabet, readers are introduced to several core Jewish values. “Small hands recycle” and “small hands water so gardens will grow,” represents *ba'al tash'chit*, preserving the earth. “Small hands give gifts, help, kindle kindness, and volunteer,” are all examples of *tzedek*, righteousness. “Small hands invite friends to play,” exemplifies *hachnasat orchim*, the Jewish value of hospitality.

As parents, it may be difficult to imagine children as capable of repairing the world. *26 Big Things Small Hands Do* offers a wonderful teaching tool for our children and for us. It shows that children have the potential to do some of the most important work there is: *tikkun olam*, caring for humankind and the earth. Even small hands can help build a better world.

Teaching the next generation to care for themselves, for others, and for the world around them is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and each other. As you discuss this book with your children, you will undoubtedly find reasons to praise them for the good deeds they are already doing. Together plan activities that will further their understanding of and involvement with the critical work that is *tikkun olam*. Small hands can move mountains.