



ABC ISRAEL

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Throughout history, the Jewish people have remained deeply attached to Israel. Traditional Jewish prayers contain numerous references to Israel, and two major Jewish Holidays—Yom Kippur and Passover—conclude with the hope of “next year in Jerusalem.” Israel is the land where our Biblical ancestors walked; it is where Jewish history lives and where history continues to unfold on a daily basis.

With its predictable ABC format and focus on familiar, everyday objects, ABC Israel lays a foundation to help young children feel a connection to Israel. Carefully-phrased questions can help young ones develop an appreciation of Israel and how it differs from their own home:

- Which foods in the book do you recognize and which seem brand new?
- Do the buildings, parks, and houses in Israel look like the ones in your neighborhood?

Notice the Hebrew letters on the milk cartons and on the grocery stalls and street signs. How do these letters compare to the letters of the ABC's?

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

ABC Israel features common images that a child might see while strolling through the streets of Israel. Take a walk with your child through your neighborhood and snap pictures of the everyday items that you encounter. Compare the photos of your neighborhood with those in ABC Israel.

If you've been to Israel or know someone who has visited, examine photos from these trips with your child. Shalom Sesame (www.shalomsesame.org) has some wonderful video clips of Israel that you and your child can enjoy together.

Based on your child's age, you may opt to shorten your reading of this book by focusing only on those items that hold special meaning to your child. Search for the Israeli item that matches the first letter of your child's name. Count the animals, identify different vehicles, and try pairing sounds with the images depicted in the book.