



CAMP WONDERFUL WILD

Written by Lauryl Snyder

Illustrated by Carlynn Whitt

Many of us yearn for a simpler time, a quieter time, or permission to “unplug” from the constant stream of demands and interruptions. Silence and repose are fundamental human needs, however, they are elusive in the rush of everyday life. Where do we begin to search for them? And if it’s this difficult for us, how is it for our children?

The Hebrew word for peace, Shalom comes from a root meaning completeness and perfection. Often times we need a break from the routine, a foray into beautiful surroundings, into nature, in order to listen and be reminded of all the beauty in our own lives. Jewish summer camps offer children a wonderful opportunity to be at one with nature and to appreciate all of G-d’s creations. The simple pleasures of marshmallow roasts, scavenger hunts and making friends are but a few byproducts of the Jewish camp experience. For the parents of campers, we are lovingly reminded of the gifts of nature, of the peace or shalom it provides, through the joyful camp experiences of our sons and daughters. And, camp builds memories that often last a lifetime.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

This delightful story offers humorous text and colorful illustrations of the wonder of the Jewish camp experience. Here are some questions to ask your child.

- What camp activities can you remember from the story?
- Which activities would you like to try?
- Do you think the words are meant to be silly? Why or why not?
- This is a Jewish camp and Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people. Can you find any Hebrew words?

Time spent outside is an opportunity for true family togetherness. Consider trying the following:

- Explore a new hiking trail
- Walk around your neighborhood looking for the colors of flowers, and/or the shapes of the petals. Count how many you can find.
- Do your own scavenger hunt.
- Camp out in your backyard (or at a camp site!)