



AVI THE AMBULANCE GOES TO SCHOOL

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Avi is a little ambulance who lives in Israel. What does an ambulance learn when he goes to school? How to help others! Readers will learn about important Jewish values along with Avi in this fun story.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Avi the Ambulance is eager to get to work saving lives, and Shira, the little girl he rescues, is grateful. This simple exchange is packed with Jewish values.

Zrizut

Ari shows enthusiasm for doing good (*zrizut*) when he can't wait to go to ambulance school to learn to help people.

Hakarat hatov

Hakarat hatov, literally “acknowledging the good,” is a combination of gratitude and paying it forward. Safely in the hospital, Shira tells her parents that she wants to grow up to be like Avi and his driver, Zack, so she can help people, too.

Pikuach nefesh

Saving a life (*pikuach nefesh*) is one of the most important of all Jewish principles. It takes precedence over everything else. As an ambulance, Avi embodies *pikuach nefesh* every day!

Avi is part of *Magen David Adom* (MDA), which literally means “Red Star of David.” This is Israel’s version of the Red Cross. In stories and in real life, we can be grateful to the MDA, and ambulances like Avi, for saving lives.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Zrizut (enthusiasm for doing good), *hakarat hatov* (gratitude and paying it forward), and *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life) are Jewish values that your children can start putting into practice early, just like Avi.

Engaging children in doing good things helps them experience *zrizut*.. For instance, children can help arrange a party for a loved one, help stock the car with snacks to offer to homeless people, or help to create first-aid kits to give as gifts or donations.

Create an attitude of gratitude – *hakarat hatov* – by playing the rose-and-thorn game. At dinner or bedtime, talk about your “rose” for the day (an experience you’re grateful for) and a “thorn” (something that was challenging). You can also name a “bud” -- something you’re looking forward to.

Make sure your children know basic safety information such as their full name and address and how to call emergency services. If they ever need to make that call, they’ll be practicing *pikuach nefesh*.

Taking care of family pets combines all three values! Be quick to help, be grateful for their presence in your life, and sustain their lives by feeding them and keeping them healthy.