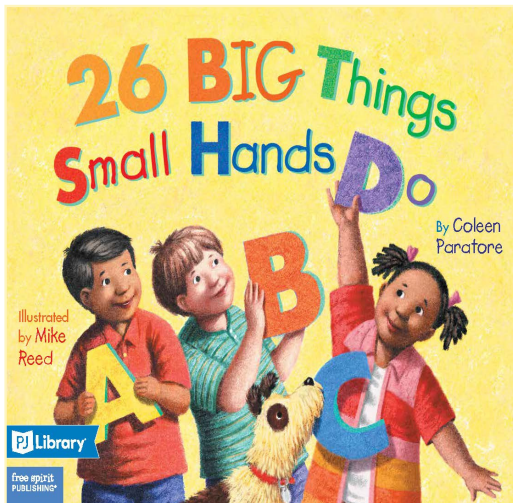


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{ **What makes the world better?** }

## Fixing What's Broken

The world is beautiful, but it can also be made better. Judaism focuses on deeds over creed, which is why the value of tikkun olam (Hebrew for “repairing the world”) is not just an idea but a call to action – to use our hands as well as our minds. As it says in Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Ancestors, a collection of rabbinic wisdom), “It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but you are not free to desist from it either.” None of us can fix the world all by ourselves, but each of us can help out in meaningful ways – even the smallest among us.

**HANDS ON!**

## Make Handprint Art



Small hands can make for a beautiful keepsake. Create this simple handprint painting as a gift for a grandparent or special friend.

Supplies:  
Nontoxic paint  
Shallow dish or plate  
Heavy paper



Put a little paint in a shallow dish or plate. You can use one color or several. Direct kids to press their hands in the paint, then lay them flat on the paper, leaving behind colorful handprints. Write their names, ages, and a loving message.

## V is for Values

Little ones who are learning their ABCs may recognize some of the letters on these pages, but they may not notice the Jewish values they call up, such as caring for animals (tza’ar ba’alei chayim), reducing waste (bal tashchit), and welcoming guests (hachnasat orchim). One important letter is Q – “small hands question so that everybody learns.” Judaism values questioning not just when we are young, but all through our curious, creative lives. To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/bigthingsmallhands](http://pjlibrary.org/bigthingsmallhands).

## It's In Our Hands

This book is a powerful reminder of how much we can do with our hands. Jewish tradition includes a powerful blessing called the mishebeirach (“the One who blessed”): “May the One who blessed our forefathers and foremothers . . . send blessing and success to all the works of your hands.” When our hands are doing good work, the whole world can enjoy blessing and success. It’s the best kind of handiwork there is!

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

Which of the things in this book have you done? Which would you like to do next?

How many different animals can you find in this book? How would you show kindness to these animals?

The hands in this book do many different things. What do you like to do with your hands?