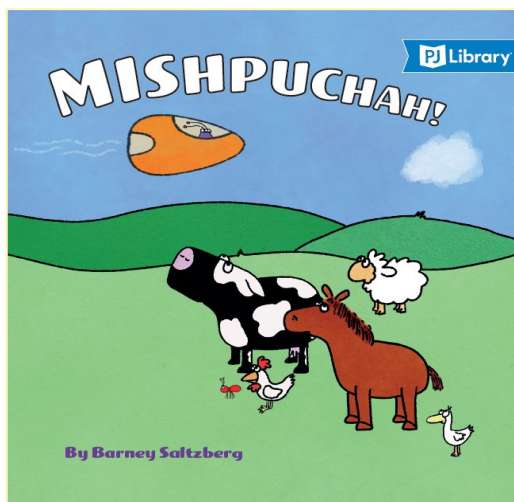


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{ What does family mean to you? }



HANDS ON!

Play the Animal Sounds Game

In this book, the space creature keeps matching the wrong sounds with the wrong animals. Play an animal sounds matching game with your toddler.

First, go through the book and point to each animal, and ask your toddler to say the animal sound.

Then, you make the sounds, and ask your toddler to search through the book to find the animal!

Ask your toddler what sounds the space creature makes!

All in the Family

Snails and whales, trees and . . . ETs? Life on Earth (and maybe other planets, too!) is diverse, which is why *kevod habriyot* (Hebrew for “honoring all creatures”) is an important Jewish value. When we human beings embrace our differences, we show respect for one another – and we can extend that respect to caring for and preserving all forms of life. The visitor in this story seems to understand something the ancient rabbis taught long ago: “Who is honored? One who honors everyone.” To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/mishpuchah.

An Immigrant’s Tale

None of the animals on this farm speak the space creature’s language -- which happens to be Yiddish, a mixture of German, Hebrew, and some Slavic languages that was once spoken by Jews across Central and Eastern Europe. A massive wave of Eastern European Jews immigrated to other parts of the world in the late 1800s through the early 1900s, and upon arrival in their new destinations, some may have felt like they’d landed on different planets. As time has shown again and again, when met with a warm welcome, immigrants quickly understand and communicate with their new neighbors – and soon become part of the family.

Listen to the Littlest

While the language barrier is frustrating, both the space creature and the farm animals are open to meeting each other. They aren’t afraid; they aren’t suspicious; they don’t assume that either of them will hurt or harm the other. There’s an important teaching in *Pirkei Avot* (Hebrew for Ethics of the Ancestors), an ancient collection of rabbinic writings: “Speak little but do much, and receive all people in a pleasant way.” That includes the smallest among us, as the tiny bug interpreter proves!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHAT does each farm animal in this book say?

WHAT other animal sounds do you know?

MISHPUCHAH means family -- people you are related to, and people you feel close to. Who is in your family?