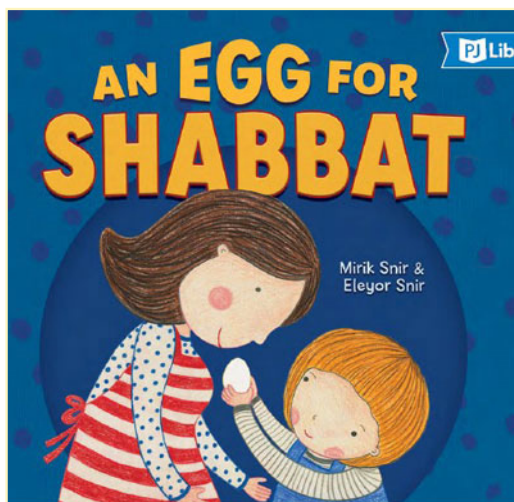


An Egg for Shabbat

written and illustrated by
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{ What can we learn from mistakes? }



Broken Eggs Make the Omelet

In this story, Ben breaks a lot of eggs before he returns home with one intact. But he keeps trying. The Talmud (the core collection of rabbinic writings) talks about the importance of persevering through difficulties: “If one says to you: I have struggled mightily and I have not prevailed, do not believe him” (Megillah 6b). When we push ourselves to try harder, success is even sweeter. After all, sometimes you have to break a few eggs to make an omelet! To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/eggforshabbat.

Be a Learning Cheerleader

Ben’s mother shows exceptional patience as her child struggles to get that egg home unbroken. Every time the egg comes crashing down, she helps Ben see that he isn’t failing; he’s learning. Her positive attitude helps to fuel her little one’s curiosity, encouraging him to approach the task like a scientific experiment. The most powerful learning happens when we give ourselves the space to figure things out.

All Days Lead to Shabbat

What is that hard-won egg finally used for? Ben and his mother use it for their loaves of delicious Shabbat challah (braided bread). There’s so much to do to get ready for Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, that many people stretch out their preparations over several days. When Shabbat arrives on Friday night, it’s time to rest. That day of rest refreshes and reenergizes us for a new week ahead . . . because there are always more eggs to be gathered, and more lessons to be learned.

HANDS ON!

“Egg-speriment” with Eggs and Spoons

Plastic eggs make this experiment indoor-friendly. If you use real eggs, make sure they’re hard-boiled!

Supplies:
Plastic eggs
Spoons

Choose a starting line and a finish line. Place an egg on each participant’s spoon. When the “go” signal is given, everyone races toward the finish line, trying to keep their egg on the spoon (you may choose to send egg droppers back to the starting line!). After the race, kids can think about which carrying techniques were successful and what didn’t work. Then try again, just like Ben!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHAT are some of the mistakes Ben made with the eggs? Can you think of a mistake you once made?

WHY is it important to keep trying, even if it’s hard?

BEN helps his mother prepare for Shabbat. How do you help in your home?