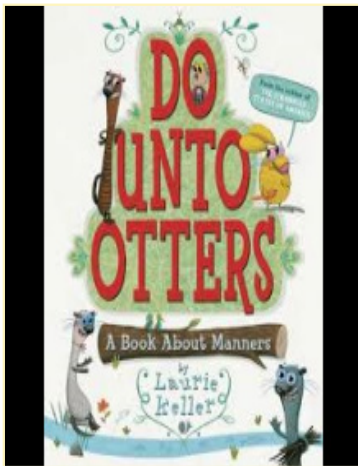


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{ How do you want to be treated? }

### Stay Golden

You've probably heard of the Golden Rule: Do unto others – ahem, others – as you would have them do unto you. When the first-century sage Rabbi Hillel articulated this rule, he cast it in the negative: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to others." That's important because the basis of ethical behavior is to avoid doing harm. Once that foundation is in place, then we can build upon it by showing kindness, sharing, cooperating, and making friends. Countless rabbis and theologians agree that the Golden Rule is the most important message of Judaism in a single sentence. To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/dountooters](http://pjlibrary.org/dountooters).

### HANDS ON!

#### Make Welcome Cards

When otters – or any new people – move into your neighborhood or come to your school, you can help them feel at home by making them a special welcome card.

Supplies:

- 1 piece of thick paper or cardstock
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Fold the piece of paper in half to make a card.

On the front of the card, draw a picture of yourself (or your family, or your class!).

Above the picture, write "Welcome to the Neighborhood" or "Welcome to Our School."

Inside the card, write a short message – something like "I'm excited to get to know you," or "I hope you like it here!" Add other decorations, if you'd like.

If you can, present the card in person with a friendly smile!

#### Be a Mensch

Avoiding harm may sound simple, but how do we actually do this in daily life? This book lays out many different Jewish values that guide us, such as politeness (*derech eretz*), honesty (*yosher*), fairness (*tzedek*), and cooperation (*shutafut*). A lot of this is simply good manners, which are much more than knowing which fork to use; they're about being welcoming, considering other people's feelings, and owning up when you make a mistake. Good manners help a person be a mensch, a Yiddish word that refers to a good person who is kind to others – and otters.

#### Light Up the Way

Mr. Rabbit is doo-dee-dooing along when suddenly, new neighbors appear: otters! Mr. Rabbit has never met any otters, so he worries, "What if we don't get along?" Sometimes it's natural to feel wary of new people, but having a good attitude can help. The sage rabbis of the ancient world recognized that this could be tricky. As it says in *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Ancestors, an ancient collection of rabbinic wisdom), "Judge everyone in a positive light." When we want to see the good in others, that can help us to find it, and things usually work out from there. Doo-dee-doo!

### TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**WHY** do you think Mr. Rabbit worries about meeting new neighbors? Have you ever worried about meeting new people? What happened?

**THE** otters do lots of fun things in this book! What fun things would you enjoy doing with them?

**THIS** book suggests many ways we might want others to treat us. Can you add some others? to try?