



THE FOREVER GARDEN

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Honey takes care of her garden every day – even though she's going to be moving away soon. Laurel, her neighbor next door, knows she's going to miss her. But Honey explains to her that friendship, like her garden, has a way of growing – despite time and distance.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Woven throughout Jewish history is the concept of *l'dor vador* - Hebrew for "from generation to generation." From Judaism's very beginnings, countless teachers, parents, and community leaders have worked tirelessly to transmit their faith, teachings, and traditions to the generations that followed. It is this faithful effort that has helped ensure the survival and continuity of the Jewish people over thousands of years. The Talmudic story of Honi planting a tree - as described in this book's Author's Note - is a beautiful example of this thinking put to action.

In *The Forever Garden*, Honey understands that the work she puts into her beloved garden is not only for her benefit, but also for that of the next owners . . . and the next. She lovingly invests her time and energy, knowing there is something bigger at stake than her own nourishment and enjoyment. So, too, countless generations of Jews have made their best efforts to tend the garden of Jewish life for their descendants.

The *chinuch* - education - of children is accordingly given high priority in Judaism. The values and practices of Judaism can be seen as seeds planted in the heart and mind. Parents, teachers, and community members sow these seeds in the hope that children will bloom and grow and become the loving "gardeners" of the next generation.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Sir Isaac Newton said, "If I have been able to see further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." We can see many examples in daily life of benefits we receive from the hard work of others. Encourage your children to think about someone who has taught them a skill or fact, or given an important piece of advice. This could be a teacher at school, a relative, or someone in their community. Who else do they know who would benefit from this information? Discuss ways that we can all help each other by sharing what we know and do.

Brainstorm as a family things you can do for others that will have lasting or far-reaching impact. Consider planting a tree in your yard or a nearby park, to be enjoyed for years to come. There are also charities to which you can donate for planting trees in Israel; a quick Internet search will provide a number of options.

Talk with your children about the importance of learning from the older people in their lives, and passing that knowledge along to younger family members and friends, as Honey did with her young friend. As a visual reminder, gather together family members or friends that span several generations and take a group photo. Your children might create and hold up a poster with the words "*l'dor vador*."