

I Love Camp

written and illustrated by
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How do you picture camp?

Happy Campers

Being Jewish is a little like being part of a huge worldwide family. Like a family, the Jewish people shares history, a common language (though many of us aren't fluent!), and many traditions. Jewish summer camp provides a safe, warm community where kids can find their place in the larger Jewish family. Camp friendships can last into adulthood, and music and songs are remembered and passed down to the next generation. At Jewish summer camp, Judaism comes alive with action, new experiences, and most of all, rollicking good times. Preschoolers are too young to go, of course...but time flies! To learn more about Jewish summer camp, and for information about PJ Goes to Camp, an incentive program for first-time campers, visit pjlibrary.org/ilovecamp.

Back to the Land

One of the great benefits of going to camp? Spending a lot of time outdoors! The kids in this book aren't just celebrating Shabbat and singing Jewish songs — they're swimming, rock climbing, hiking, sitting around campfires, even encountering wildlife. Judaism encourages us to take an active role in protecting the land and our environment, and fostering a love of nature in children's early years can be an important part of bringing up an environmentally aware generation.

Shabbat Shalom

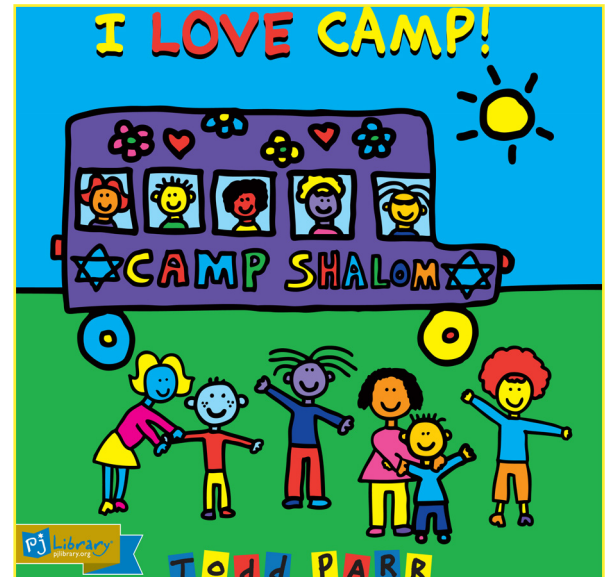
The kids in this book take part in many Jewish customs and rituals. Look closely at the illustrations: When the children bring in Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, there are lit candles and two loaves of challah (braided egg bread) on the table beside them — both traditional parts of the Friday night Shabbat rituals. When Shabbat is over, the kids observe the ritual of *Havdalah* (Hebrew for "separation") with a traditional braided candle and spice box. Shabbat dinner rituals and Havdalah are markers of time — a departure from the everyday on Friday evening, and then a return to it on Saturday night. Not going to camp this year? No problem — Shabbat and Havdalah come around every week, wherever you happen to be, and celebrating at home is every bit as special.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

The kids in this book spend lots of time outdoors. What do you like to do outdoors?

If you went to a camp like this one, which activity do you think you'd like best?

Do you know people who have gone to overnight camp? Ask them how they liked it!



HANDS ON!

Make Indoor S'mores

The kids in this book make s'mores, a classic campfire treat. No open flame? No problem — make an indoor version in the oven.

Ingredients



- 1 12 oz package of chocolate chips
- 1 10 oz package of mini marshmallows
- Graham crackers for dipping

Place a glass baking dish in the oven and preheat to 375 degrees. Once heated, remove dish, sprinkle chocolate chips evenly along the bottom, and place back in the oven until the chocolate is softened, around 3-5 minutes. (Chips will retain their shape.) Remove dish again, cover the chocolate with marshmallows, and bake until marshmallow tops are golden, around 10-12 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes, then eat warm with graham crackers and whatever else you'd like to dip.