

A Note from PJ Library®

We hope for so many things for our babies. We hope they are happy and healthy, and we also hope that will grow up to be kind people. We can begin modeling kindness for our children even when they're learning their very first words. One word, the Hebrew word *shalom*, repeats several times in this book because it has several meanings: hello, goodbye, and peace. Whether coming or going, it is a Jewish value to try to make the world a better, more peaceful place. The kids in this book enact many other Jewish values as well: they welcome guests, show gratitude, apologize for mistakes, share with others, make friends, and take care of the earth.

There is an ancient saying: "The beginning and end of Torah is kindness." The root of every good act is being kind – to other people, and to ourselves. If we focus on doing one small act of kindness at a time, we're heading in the right direction. All of those little things add up, and ultimately change the world. What better message to send to our children? To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/myfirstkindwords.

About PJ Library

The gift of PJ Library is made possible by thousands of generous supporters, your Jewish community, the PJ Library Alliance, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. PJ Library shares Jewish culture and values through children's books that reflect the diversity of Jewish customs and practice. To learn more about the program and ways to connect to local activities, visit pjlibrary.org.