

What a Wonderful World

song by
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illustrated by
Tim Hopgood

{How can we show appreciation for our world?}



HANDS ON!

What a Wonderful Lullaby

Singing to babies is a time-tested way to soothe little ones to sleep – and they can calm down frazzled caregivers at the same time. In Jewish tradition, a lullaby can often be a wordless melody known as a nigun. Why not combine the two?

Listen to Louis Armstrong sing “What a Wonderful World” (you can easily find it online). You can use this book to help you memorize the lyrics.

When it’s time to help calm your baby, hum the song without words, then sing it with them.

Repeat as needed. Good night!

Inherent Beauty

This book is based on the song made famous by the late, great Louis Armstrong. It was released in the late 1960s, a time many recall as filled with social and political upheaval -- but there was still inherent beauty in the world. The value of hakarat hatov, Hebrew for “recognizing the good,” is at the heart of traditional Jewish blessings recited every day. Research shows that finding the small wonders in everyday life helps us feel happier and more grateful, even during challenging times. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/wonderfulworld.

The Children Are Our Future

“I hear babies cry. I watch them grow. They’ll learn much more than I’ll never know.” The world is wonderful, but also highly imperfect, so parents everywhere hold hope that the new generation will be able to create a better world than the one we have to offer to them. L’dor vador, Hebrew for “from generation to generation,” refers to passing down traditions and culture -- an important Jewish value. We offer our children all the wisdom and knowledge we can, and then root for them to make the world more wonderful.

A World Worth Caring For

As the illustrations in this book show, so much of what is wonderful in life is based in our physical world. Trees of green and skies of blue are signs of a happy, healthy planet. It is no accident that the Hebrew word for earth, adamah, is so similar to Adam, the name of the first human being in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). According to the Torah, Adam was shaped from the dust of the Earth. The fate of humanity and the planet are interlinked, so no wonder taking care of the earth is a deeply held Jewish value.