

Jewish Nursery Rhymes, Fingerplays, & Songs

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I Am a Jewish Star

I am a Jewish Star, (Wiggle hands and fingers over head)
My light shines from within. (Both hands point to heart)
I have a spark of God in me,
You see it when I grin. (Point to smile)

When I am sweet, and kind & good
And helpful as can be,
You see the spark of God in me (Both hand point to heart)
Shine for all to see. (Wiggle hands and fingers over head)

Ema's Glasses (Mother's Glasses) / Aba's Glasses (Father's Glasses)
or Savta's Glasses (Grandmother's Glasses), /Saba's Glasses (Grandfather's Glasses)

These are Ema's glasses (Bring index fingers and thumbs together to form glasses on face)

This is Ema's hat (Bring finger tips together to form peak over head)

This is the way she folds her hands (Fold hands and place on lap)

And puts them in her lap.

(Lower voice and make larger movements)

These are Aba's glasses ((Bring index fingers and thumbs together to form glasses on face)

This is Aba's hat (Bring finger tips together to form peak over head)

This is the way he folds his hands (Fold hands, interweave fingers, and place on lap)

And puts them in his lap.

SHABBAT

Shabbat Candles

Shabbat candles (Both hand up, wiggle fingers)
All aglow,
One, two, (Pointer fingers up, one at a time)
They burn so slow,
Lower, lower, (Bend pointer fingers down, slowly)
Out they go
Poof! (open both hands)

Kiddush cup

Here is the kiddush cup (Cup hands together)
Shining so bright,
On our table (Hands flat, palms down, spread apart)
On Friday night.

In it's reflection (Hands together, palms toward face)
I can see,
The challah and candles, (Fists together to form challah, Pointer fingers up for candles)
My family and me. (Fingers point out, then point to self)

Wind, Wind. Wind /Braid a Challah

Wind, wind, wind (2 x) (Make fists, roll hands)
Pull, pull, tap, tap, tap. (pull fists apart, tap one fist on top of the other)

Make a challah (2 x) (Make fists, roll hands)
Braid, braid, pat, pat, pat. (Make braiding motions, tap one fist on top of the other)

Song: This is the Way to the Synagogue (to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)

This is the way to the Synagogue,
The Synagogue, the Synagogue.
This is the way to the Synagogue
So early Shabbat morning.

First we hear the Rabbi pray,
Rabbi pray, Rabbi pray.
First we hear the Rabbi pray,
And read from the Torah.

Then we hear the Cantor sing,
Cantor sing Cantor sing.
Then we hear the Cantor sing,
Shema Yisroael.

Now it's time for Oneg Shabbat,

**Oneg Shabbat Oneg Shabbat.
Now it's time for Oneg Shabbat,
And munch a tasty cookie.**

**Now it's time to go back home,
Go back home, go back home.
Now it's time to go back home
And take a Shabbat nap.**

Havdalah Candle

**Havdalah candle
Burn so bright,
Twisted, twisted,
Light the night.**

(Roll hands)

"

"

"

**We're ready to work
Throughout the week,
'Til next Shabbat comes,
Oh, so sweet.**

(Slow down rolling)

(Slowly open hands, palms up)

ROSH HASHANAH

Shanah Tova Card

In the mailbox (Hands palms together)
There's something for me.
Open the envelope (Open hands)
What do you see?
Shanah Tovah it calls to me. (Point with finger on open palm, like reading)
A sweet New Year,
Happy and free.

Apples and Honey

Apples and honey
Are oh, so yummy
A way to start the new year.

We dip and we crunch (Make dipping motion,)
We lick and we munch (Lick finger, then pretend to chew)
May the sweetness bring
Health and much cheer.

The Shofar

The shofar is calling
Tehroo, tehroo. (Fists together, put up to mouth)
The shofar is blowing,
It's calling to you.

A new year is here,
The old year is through.
The shofar is calling,
Tehroo, tehroo. (Fists together, put up to mouth)

SUKKOT

We Decorate Our Sukkah

We decorate our sukkah
With things we can eat,
Carrots and peppers,
Oh, what a treat.

(Fingers hand down and wiggle)

When the wind blows
They swing in the breeze,
Carrots and peppers,
They move like the leaves.

(Wave hands back and forth)
(Fingers hang down and wiggle)

Our Sukkah is Open

Our sukkah is open
The stars can shine in,
Through the branches
And onto my skin

(Flat hands together, curve to form 3 sides)
(Wiggle fingers)
(Weave fingers together)
(rub arms)

I look through the leaves
I know that today,
We'll sit in the sukkah
We'll eat and we'll pray.

(Weave fingers together)

We'll shake the lulav
And etrog too.
We'll say, "Thank you God
For all that you do."

(Fists one on top of the other and shake)
(Cup hands together)

SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah

My flag is waving
Way up high.
I kiss the Torah
As it goes by.

(Wave arm above head)
(Pretend to touch Torah and kiss fingers)

I hear the rabbi
Read Bereshet
And after services
I get a treat.
Yum!

(Rub tummy)

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star (Wiggle fingers above head)
A Magen David is what you are.

A special star for all to see,
That we are Jewish
You and me. (Point to child and then to self)

Song: We'll Be Going Round the Synagogue
(to the tune of She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain"

We'll be going round the synagogue when we march (2x)
We'll be going round the synagogue (2x)
We'll be going round the synagogue when we march.

We'll be carrying little torahs when we march (2x)
We'll be carrying little torahs (2x)
We'll be carrying little torahs when we march.

We'll be waving our new flags when we march (2x)
We'll be waving our new flags (2x)
We'll be waving our new flags when we march.

We'll have fun on Simchat Torah when we march (2x)
We'll have fun on Simchat Torah (2x)
We'll have fun on Simchat Torah when we march.

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah

Dreidels are spinning

(Rub thumb against pointer and middle finger,
like spinning a dreidel)

The candles burn bright

(Thumbs together, fingers up and wiggle)

Latkes are sizzling

It's Hanukkah night.

Stories are told

Of the Maccabees true,

Who saved the Temple

For me and for you.

(Point to self and then to child)

Song: Antiochus' Army

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Antiochus' army's falling down

Falling down (2x)

Antiochus' army's falling down

The Maccabees are here.

Find some oil and light the light

Light the light (2x)

Find some oil and light the light

Hanukkah is here.

TU B'SHEVAT

Growing Like a Tree

Watch me grow	(Crouch down)
Just like a tree	(Slowly get up)
Taller, taller	(Bring arms up over head)
Wild and free.	
Arms reach out	(Stretch arms out)
Like branches wide,	
With little nooks	(Bend elbows)
Where birds can hide.	(Elbows bent, cup hands, palms up)
My fingers stretch	(Stretch fingers out)
And wiggle fast	(Wiggle fingers)
Like leaves that shimmer	
When the wind blows past.	

On Tu B'Shevat

It's time to plant	
Please don't say	(shake pointer finger)
That you just can't!	
Get your spade,	(Right hand make a fist and shake)
Get your hoe,	(Left hand make a fist and shake)
Plant your tree	(Both hands make digging motion)
So it can grow.	
Don't forget to water deep.	(Pour with one hand)
The roots are covered	(Spread fingers on both hands, palms down)
But they don't sleep.	(Move hands apart)
Some day we'll swing	(Swing arms)
On branches free	
Or have a picnic	
Beneath your tree.	(Wave arms up and over head and out like branches)

PURIM

Purim Guessing Game

I've a mask on my face
Can you guess who I am?

(Fingers together to form mask over eyes)

I'm a king with a name
That sounds like a sneeze. . .
If you guessed A-ha-shu-a-rus,
Then I will be pleased.

I was queen, but not too long,
For the King got mad at me. . .
If you guessed Queen Vashti,
You're right, as right can be.

I'm a queen who saved her people
She was pretty and she was smart. . .
If you guessed Queen Esther,
Then you can play the part.

I'm a brave Jewish man,
Who helped Esther save us all. . .
If you guessed Mordechai,
Then I'll take you to the ball.

I'm the bad man in the story,
His name we don't want to hear. . .
If you guessed that I am Haman,
Then for you, we'll give a cheer.

Shake Your Gragger

Shake your gragger
Let's make noise.
Purim's fun
For girls and boys.

(Make a fist and shake)

Treats to eat
Masks to wear
Schlach Manot
Everywhere

(Hand to mouth)

(Fingers together to form mask over eyes)

(Hands together, curved palms up)

(Move curved palms from left to right)

PASSOVER

Old Mother Hubbard on Passover

**Old Mother Hubbard
Went to her cupboard
To get her poor kelev (dog) some bread,
But when she got there
There was none anywhere
So she gave him some matzah instead.**

Afikomen, Afikomen

Afikomen, afikomen	(Hands shade eyes, look from left to right)
I'll find you there	
Inside a napkin	(Hands together, palm to palm)
Under a chair	(Right hand under left)

Afikomen, afikomen,	
When seder is done,	
You'll be all gone,	(Hands extended, palms up)
There won't be a crumb.	(Shake head back and forth)

SHAVUOT

Moses and the Ten Commandments

Moses climbed a mountain tall (Hands climb up over head)
To bring commandments to us all,
10 rules from God, (Both hands up, fingers outstretched)
So our world could be,
Peaceful and loving, (Hug child)
For you and for me. (Point to child, then to self)

CLOSING

My Anyim Can See

My anyim can see (Point to eyes)
My peh can talk (Point to mouth)
My oznayim can hear (Point to ears)
My reglyim can walk (Point to legs)

But when the clock,
It's time does show (Point to clock on the wall, or watch)
I take my rhymes
And away I go
Shalom (Wave good bye)