



FAMILY SUKKOT ACTIVITIES

Sukkot (or booths in Hebrew) is the Jewish festival of booths. This holiday begins five days after Yom Kippur in which Jews dwell in booths for a week. The booth or sukkah represent the huts where the Israelites lived in during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. The most common rituals of Sukkot include building a sukkah, inviting guests into your sukkah, and holding and shaking four species of plants that grow in Israel, including a palm, myrtle, willow (lulav in Hebrew) and citron (etrog in Hebrew). –adapted from bimbam.com/judaism-101/sukkot/

In a sukkah “we surround our children (and ourselves) with something Jewish. In the mitzvah of sukkah, our children participate in building a miniature Jewish environment in which to dwell, if only for a short while. They participate with all their senses, with physical effort, with imagination and spirit. The mitzvah of sukkah is a special experience of immersion in Jewish culture.” –*The Jewish Parents’ Almanac* by Julie Hilton Danan

Spending time in a sukkah is a way to slow down, reconnect with the natural world, and offer up one of the most fundamental human prayers: “Thank you.” –*How to Raise a Jewish Child* by Anita Diamant

Sukkot Activities:

- Take a nature walk, collect leaves, and make leaf rubbings to decorate your sukkah or home. Arrange leaves between two pieces of contact paper, holepunch and add string to hang up.
- Go outside to chart the phases of the moon throughout Sukkot. Sukkot begins during a full moon.
- Help your child make a sukkah out of an empty appliance box, a shoebox, or a variety of materials.
- Sukkot reminds us there are people who do not have homes. Donate food or money to organizations who help people in need. Join BAS members in this work: betamshalom.org/social_action_tikkun_olam
- In the spirit of *Ushpizin* (biblical ancestors—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, Miriam, Ruth & Deborah—whom we invite to our sukkah), share with your children family photos, movies, and stories of your family’s ancestors.

Children’s Books:

Axe-Bronk. *The Vanishing Gourds.*
Bodin Cohen. *Engineer Ari & the Sukkah Express.*
Goldin. *Night Lights.*
Kimmel. *The Mysterious Guests.*
Korngold. *Sadie’s Sukkah Breakfast.*
Kropf. *It’s Sukkah Time.*
Lepson. *Hillel Builds a House.*
Ofanansky. *Sukkot Treasure Hunt.*
Packer. *Sky-High Sukkah.*
Rouss. *A Watermelon in the Sukkah.*
Rouss. *Sammy Spider’s First Sukkot.*
Steinberg. *The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever.*
Terwilliger. *Bubbe Isabella and the Sukkot Cake.*

Great websites:

betamshalom.org/sukkot
bimbam.com/judaism-101/sukkot/
Kveller.com
myjewishlearning.com
Ritualwell.org
Sukkot.com & other sites to order a sukkah

Wishing you a *Chag Sameach* Happy Holiday!