



SADIE'S SUKKAH BREAKFAST

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Two siblings plan a special breakfast in their family's sukkah during the harvest festival of Sukkot and end up sharing it with some very special guests.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Sukkot and the Sukkah

The autumn harvest festival of Sukkot lasts eight days (seven days for Israelis and many Reform Jews); it begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* – two weeks after *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year. Sukkot is a time when all of the senses can be engaged in celebration and gratitude, making it an ideal holiday to enjoy with children.

The hut (or booth) that is erected and in which Sukkot is celebrated is known as a sukkah and is a reminder of the temporary shelters used by the Israelites as they lived and traveled in the desert after the exodus from Egypt and the slavery they endured there.

Hachnasat Orchim

Hachnasat orchim (welcoming guests) is a fundamental Jewish value. The quintessential role models for this are Abraham and Sarah, our Biblical ancestors. When guests unexpectedly arrived at their tent, Abraham and Sarah warmly welcomed them, made them comfortable, and fed them generously. Bringing stuffed animals into the sukkah, as Sadie did, is a natural way for children to experience *hachnasat orchim*.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Very young children can participate in the creation of a colorful, cozy sukkah. If you are interested in building a sukkah, there are many options available. You can buy a pre-fabricated sukkah online or from a Judaica store, or you can make your own. The Internet is a great resource for construction tips. A sukkah is generally adorned with autumnal fruits, vegetables, corn shanks, etc. as well as posters, paper chains, and colorful decorations of all kinds. Give your little ones the chance to carry fruits and vegetables to the sukkah and make their own decorations.

If you don't have a sukkah, you can visit one at a local synagogue or Jewish community center. Many places have sukkah-decorating parties that your family can participate in. Eating in a sukkah can be a great -- possibly chilly! -- experience, and sleeping in the sukkah can be a delightful treat. Sadie's experience with her brother is a reminder that a sukkah's mission is fulfilled only when it's enjoyed.

